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SYLLABUS

The History paper consists of all the aspects of Indian History, Pre-history, Ancient period, Medieval Indian history and Modern India including National Movement and post independent phase. It also consists of Historical Method, Research Methodology and Historiography. Since, the subject and the boundaries of Indian history are vast and comprehensive, it has been systematically analysed and synthesized into **Ten Units**. However, the concepts, the ideas and the terms given here would specify the extent the subject included though it is not mentioned in the units. It is to make the student realize the comprehension of the syllabus prepared.

Concepts, Ideas and Terms

Bharatvarsha
Sabha and Samiti
Varnasrama
Vedanta
Purusharthas
Rina
Samskaras
Yajna
Ganarajya
Janapada
Doctrine of Karma
Dandaniti / Arthasastra / Saptanga
Dharmavijaya
Stupa / Chaitya/ Vihara
Nagara / Dravida / Vesara
Bodhisattva / Tirthankara
Alvars / Nayanars
Sreni
Bhumi-chidra-vidhana-nyaya
Kara-bhoga-bhaga
Vishti
Stridhana
Memorial Stones
Agraharas

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Khilafat
Sulah-i-kul
Turkan-i-Chahlghani
Watan
Baluta
Taquavi
Iqta
Jaziya
Zakat
Madad-i-maash
Amaram
Raya-Rekho
Jangama / Dasa
Madarasa / Maqtab
Chauth / Sardeshmukhi
Sarai
Polygars
Jagir / Shariyat
Dastur
Mansab (Rank)
Deshmukh
Nadu / Ur
Ulema
Firman

Ain-i-Dashsalah
Pargana
Shahna-i-Mandi
Mahalwari
Hind Swaraj
Mercantilism
Economic Nationalism
Indian Renaissance
Economic Drain
Colonialism
Paramountcy
Dyarchy
Federalism
Utilitarianism
Filtration Theory
Forward Policy
Doctrine of Lapse
Satyagraha
Swadeshi
Revivalism
Communalism
Orientalism
Oriental Despotism
De-Industrialisation
Subsidiary Alliance
Evangelicalism
Bhudan
Panchsheel
Mixed Economy
Socialism
Hindu Code Bill
Historical Methods
Plagiarism
Ethics and Morality in History Writing

Unit – I

Negotiating the Sources: Archaeological sources: Exploration, Excavation, Epigraphy and Numismatics. Dating of Archaeological Sites. Literary Sources: Indigenous Literature: Primary and Secondary: problem of dating Religious and Secular Literature, Myths, Legends, etc. Foreign Accounts: Greek, Chinese and Arabic.

Pastoralism and Food production: Neolithic and Chalcolithic Phase: Settlement, distribution, tools and patterns of exchange.

Indus/Harappa Civilization: Origin, extent, major sites, settlement pattern, craft specialization, religion, society and polity, Decline of Indus Civilization, Internal and external trade, First urbanization in India.

Vedic and later Vedic periods; Aryan debates, Political and Social Institutions, State Structure and Theories of State; Emergence of Varnas and Social Stratification, Religious and Philosophical Ideas. Introduction of Iron Technology, Megaliths of South India.

Expansion of State system: Mahajanapadas, Monarchical and Republican States, Economic and Social Developments and Emergence of Second Urbanization in 6^{th} century BCE; Emergence of heterodox sects-Jainism, Buddhism and Ajivikas.

Unit – II

From State to Empire: Rise of Magadha, Greek invasion under Alexander and its effects, Mauryan expansion, Mauryan polity, society, economy, Asoka's Dhamma and its Nature, Decline and Disintegration of the Mauryan Empire, Mauyan art and architecture, Asokan edicts: language and script.

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Dissolution of Empire and Emergence of Regional Powers: Indo-Greeks, Sungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas and Saka-Ksatrapas, Sangam literature, polity and society in South India as reflected in Sangam literature. Trade and commerce from 2nd century BCE to 3rd century CE, Trade with the Roman World, Emergence of Mahayana Buddhism, Kharavela and Jainism, Post-Mauryan art and Architecture. Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati schools.

Gupta Vakataka age: Polity and Society, Agrarian Economy, Land Grants, Land Revenue and Land Rights, Gupta Coins, Beginning of Temple Architecture, Emergence of Puranic Hinduism, Development of Sanskrit Language and Literature. Developments in Science Technology, Astronomy, Mathematics and Medicine.

Harsha and his Times: Administration and Religion.

Salankayanas and Visnukundins in Andhradesa.

Unit – III

Emergence of Regional Kingdoms: Kingdoms in Deccan: Gangas, Kadmabas, Western and Eastern Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, Kakatiyas, Hoysalas and Yadavas.

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Kingdoms in South India: Pallavas, Ceras, Colas and Pandyas,

Kingdoms in Eastern India: Palas and Senas of Bengal, Varmans of Kamarupa, Bhaumakaras and Somavamsis of Odisha.

Kingdoms in Western India: Maitrakas of Vallabhi and Chalukyas of Gujarat.

Kingdoms in North India: Gurjara-Pratiharas, Kalacuri-Chedis, Gahadavalas and Paramaras.

Characteristics of Early Medieval India: Administration and Political Structure Legitimation of Kingship.

Agrarian economy; land grants, changing production relations; graded land rights and peasantry, water resources, taxation system, coins and currency system;

Trade and urbanization: patterns of trade, and urban settlements, ports and trade routes, merchandise and exchange, trade guilds; trade and colonization in south-east Asia.

Growth of Brahminical religions: Vaisnavism and Saivism; Temples; Patronage and Regional Ramification; Temple Architecture and Regional Styles. Dana, Tirtha and Bhakti, Tamil Bhakti movement - Shankara, Madhava and Ramanujacharya.

Society: Varna, Jati and Proliferation of Castes, Position of women; Gender, marriage and property relations; Women in public life. Tribes as peasants and their place in Varna order. Untouchability.

Education and Educational Institutions: Agraharas, Mathas and Mahaviharas as Centres of Education. Growth of Regional Languages.

Debates of state formation in early medieval India: A) Feudal model; B) Segmentary model; C) Integrative model

Arab contracts: Suleiman Ghaznavid conquests. Alberuni's Accounts.

Unit – IV

Source of Medieval Indian History: Archaeological, Epigraphic and Numismatic sources, Material evidences and Monuments; Chronicles; Literary sources – Persian, Sanskrit and Regional languages; Daftar Khannas: Firmans, Bahis / Pothis / Akhbarat; Foreign Travellers' Accounts – Persian and Arabic.

Political Developments – The Delhi Sultanate – the Ghorids, the Turks, the Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, theSayyids and the Lodis. Decline of Delhi Sultanate.

Foundation of the Mughal Empire – Babur, Humayun and the Suris ; Expansion and Consolidation from Akbar to Aurangzeb. Decline of the Mughal Empire.

Later Mughals and Disintegration of the Mughal Empire.

The Vijayanagara and the Bahmanis - Deccan Sultanate; Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar and Ahmadnagar – Rise, Expansion and Disintegration; Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis.

Rise of the Marathas & the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji ; its expansion under the Peshwas ; Mughal – Maratha relations, Maratha Confederacy, Causes of Decline.

Unit – V

Administration & Economy**:** Administration under the Sultanate, Nature of State – Theocratic and Theocentric, Central, Provincial and Local Administration, Law of succession.

Sher Shah's Administrative Reforms ; Mughal Administration – Central, Provincial and Local : Mansabdari and Jagirdari Systems.

Administrative System in the Deccan – The Vijayanagara State & Polity, Bahamani Administrative System; Maratha Administration – Asta Pradhan.

Frontier Policies under Delhi Sultanate and Mughals.

Inter-State Relations during the Sultanate and the Mughals.

Agricultural Production and Irrigation System, Village Economy, Peasantry, Grants and Agricultural Loans, Urbanization and Demographic Structure.

Industries – Cotton Textiles, Handicrafts, Agro-Based industries, Organisation, Factories & Technology.

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Trade and Commerce – State Policies, Internal and External Trade: European Trade, Trade Centres and Ports, Transport and Communication.

Hundi (Bills of Exchange) and Insurance, State Income and Expenditure, Currency, Mint System; Famines and Peasant Revolts.

Unit – VI

Society and Culture: Social Organisation and Social Structure.

The Sufis – Their Orders, Beliefs and Practices, the leading Sufi Saints, Social Synchronization.

Bhakti Movement – Shaivism; Vaishnavism, Shaktism.

The Saints of the Medieval Period – North and South – their impact on Socio-Political and Religious Life – Women Saints of Medieval India.

The Sikh Movement – Guru Nanak Dev: his teachings and practices, Adi Granth; the Khalsa.

Social Classification**:** Ruling Class, Major Religious Groups, the Ulemas, the Mercantile and Professional Classes – Rajput Society.

Rural society – Petty Chieftains, Village Officials, Cultivators and Non-Cultivating Classes, Artisans.

Position of Women – Zanana System – Devadasi System.

Development of Education, Centres of Education and Curriculum, Madarasa Education.

Fine Arts – Major Schools of Painting – Mughal, Rajasthani, Pahari, Garhwali; Development of Music.

Art and Architecture, Indo-Islamic Architecture, Mughal Architecture, Regional Styles.

Indo-Arabic Architecture, Mughal Gardens, Maratha Forts, Shrines and Temples.

Unit –VII

Sources of Modern Indian History: Archieval Materials, Biographies and Memoirs, Newspapers, Oral Evidence, Creative Literature and Painting, Monuments, Coins.

Rise of British Power: European Traders in India in the 16^{th} to 18^{th} Centuries – Portuguese, Dutch, French and the British.

Establishment and Expansion of British Dominion in India.

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British Relations with Principal Indian States – Bengal, Oudh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Carnatic and Punjab.

Revolt of 1857, Causes, Nature and Impact.

Administration of the Company and the Crown; Evolution of Central and Provincial Structure under East India Company.

Paramountcy, Civil Service, Judiciary, Police and the Army under the Company; British Policy and Paramountcy in the Princely States under the Crown.

Local Self-Government.

Constitutional Changes, 1909 – 1935.

Unit – VIII

Colonial Economy: Changing Composition, Volume and Direction of Trade.

Expansion and Commercialization of Agriculture, Land Rights, Land Settlements, Rural Indebtedness, Landless Labour, Irrigation and Canal System.

Decline of Industries – Changing Socio-Economic Conditions of Artisans; De-urbanisation; Economic Drain; World Wars and Economy.

British Industrial Policy; Major Modern Industries; Nature of Factory Legislation; Labour and Trade Union Movements.

Monetary Policy, Banking, Currency and Exchange, Railways and Road Transport, Communications – Post & Telegraph.

Growth of New Urban Centres; New Features of Town Planning and Architecture, Urban Society and Urban Problems.

Famines, Epidemics and the Government Policy.

Tribal and Peasant Movements.

Indian Society in Transition: Contact with Christianity – the Missions and Missionaries; Critique of Indian Social and Economic Practices and Religious Beliefs; Educational and Other Activities.

The New Education – Government Policy; Levels and Contents; English Language; Development of Science, Technology, Public Health & Medicine – Towads Modernism.

Indian Renaissance – Socio-Religious Reforms; Emergence of Middle Class; Caste Associations and Caste Mobility.

Women's Question – Nationalist Discourse; Women's Organisations; British Legislation concerning Women, Gender Identity & Constitutional Position.

The Printing Press – Journalistic Activity and the Public opinion.

Modernisation of Indian Languages and Literary Forms – Reorientation in Painting, Music and Performing Arts.

Unit – IX

Rise of Indian Nationalism: Social and Economic basis of Nationalism.

Birth of Indian National Congress; Ideologies and Programmes of the Indian National Congress, 1885-1920: Early Nationalists, Assertive Nationalists and Revolutionaries.

Swadeshi and Swaraj.

Gandhian Mass Movements; Subas Chandra Bose and INA; Role of Middle Class in National Movement; Women Participation in National Movement.

Left Wing Politics.

Depressed Class Movement.

Communal Politics; Muslim League and Genesis of Pakistan.

Towards Independence and Partition.

India after Independence: Challenges of Partition; Integration of the Indian Princely States; Kashmir, Hyderabad & Junagarh.

B.R. Ambedkar – The making of the Indian Constitution, its Features.

The Structure of Bureaucracy.

New Education Policy.

Economic Policies and the Planning process; Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues.

Linguistic Reorganisation of States; Centre-State Relations.

Foreign Policy Initiatives – Panchsheel; Dynamics of Indian Politics-Emergency; Liberalisation, Privatisation & Globalisation of Indian Economy.

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Unit – X

Historical Method, Research, Methodology and Historiography:

Scope and Importance of History
Objectivity and Bias in History
Heuristics Operation, Criticism in History, Synthesis and Presentation
History and its Auxiliary Sciences
History a Science, Arts or a Social Science
Causation and Imagination in History
Significance of Regional History
Recent Trends of Indian History
Research Methodology
Hypothesis in History
Area of Proposed Research
Sources – Data Collection, Primary / Secondary, Original and Transit Sources
Trends in Historical Research
Recent Indian Historiography
Selection of Topic in History
Notes Taking, References, Footnotes and Bibliography
Thesis and Assignment Writing
Plagiarism, Intellectual Dishonesty and History Writing
Beginnings of Historical Writings – Greek, Roman and Church Historiography
Renaissance and its Impact on History Writing
Negative and Positive Schools of Historical Writing
Berlin Revolution in History Writing – Von Ranke
Marxist Philosophy of History – Scientific Materialism
Cyclical Theory of History – Oswald Spengler
Challenge and Response Theory – Arnold Joseph Toynbee
Post – Modernism in History

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CHAPTER 01

Ancient India: Sources and Early Civilizations

1. Which of the following best defines 'Epigraphy' as an archaeological source?
(A) The systematic study of ancient currency and historical coinage systems.
(B) The analytical study of inscriptions found on diverse ancient materials.
(C) The coordinated exploration of potential sites and historical regions.
(D) The stratigraphic analysis of earth layers to determine chronology.

2. In the context of Vedic society, which term refers to the assembly of elders or a council of the elite?
(A) Sabha
(B) Samiti
(C) Vidatha
(D) Gana

3. Which of the following is considered an incorrect statement regarding the characteristics of Neolithic tools?
(A) They were often polished to a fine finish.
(B) They included microliths used in composite tools.
(C) They were primarily made of copper and bronze.
(D) They were more varied and specialized than Paleolithic tools.

4. The 'first urbanization' in the Indian subcontinent is most closely associated with which civilization?
(A) The Vedic period culture.
(B) The Mahajanapada confederations.
(C) The Neolithic settlements of Mehrgarh.
(D) The Indus/Harappa Civilization.

5. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Source Type)
P. Epigraphy
Q. Numismatics
R. Foreign Accounts
S. Indigenous Literature
List II: (Example)
1. Puranas
2. Ashokan Edicts
3. Punch-marked coins
4. Si-Yu-Ki by Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

6. Identify the primary problem associated with using religious literature like the Vedas for historical reconstruction.
(A) They were primarily composed by visiting foreign observers.
(B) Their ritualistic nature complicates the extraction of objective data.
(C) they contain no references to early tribal social structures.
(D) They focus exclusively on commercial and economic transactions.

7. What was the principal function of 'Exploration' in archaeology?
(A) To excavate a specific site using horizontal digging techniques.
(B) To perform laboratory chemical analysis on ancient pottery shards.
(C) To determine the age of organic remains using Carbon-14 dating.
(D) To survey and identify potential sites or areas of historical interest.

8. The emergence of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism is a key feature of which period?
(A) The 6th century BCE.

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(B) The early Vedic period.
(C) The Harappan Civilization.
(D) The Chalcolithic phase.

9. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The decline of the Indus Civilization was a complex process with multiple contributing factors.
Reason (R) : Evidence suggests possibilities of climatic change, tectonic shifts, and decline in trade, rather than a single event like an invasion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

10. Which of the following statements about the 'Varna' system in the later Vedic period is correct?
(A) It was a rigid, hereditary four-fold social stratification.
(B) It was based on merit and allowed for high social mobility.
(C) It consisted of three classes and excluded the Shudra class.
(D) It prioritized the warrior class above the priestly class.

11. Consider the following statements about Numismatics:
1. It is the study of ancient inscriptions.
2. It helps in reconstructing trade routes and economic history.
3. It can provide information on the lineage and chronology of ruling dynasties.
4. It is primarily concerned with the analysis of architectural remains.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

12. The term 'Mahajanapadas' refers to:
(A) A collection of Vedic hymns.
(B) Large territorial states that emerged around the 6th century BCE.
(C) A type of megalithic burial in South India.
(D) The major port cities of the Harappan civilization.

13. Which of the following is NOT a primary literary source for ancient Indian history?
(A) The Arthashastra of Kautilya.
(B) The Indica of Megasthenes.
(C) A modern scholarly article on Vedic society.
(D) The Rigveda.

14. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan society and polity:
(A) The society was highly stratified, as evidenced by variations in housing and burials.
(B) The political structure was likely a centralized state, possibly ruled by a priest-king or a class of merchants.
(C) There is definitive proof of a standing army and extensive warfare.
(D) The uniformity of artifacts like pottery and bricks across a vast area suggests strong administrative control.
e. All citizens, regardless of status, lived in identical houses in the citadel are(A)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d
(B) a, c, and e
(C) b, c, and d
(D) c, d, and e

15. What is the primary significance of the introduction of iron technology in the Later Vedic period?
(A) It enabled forest clearance for expanded agricultural production.
(B) It caused an immediate decline in local agricultural activities.
(C) It was utilized solely for the minting of coins and jewelry.
(D) It triggered the total collapse of the existing Varna system.

16. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The archaeological method of excavation can be either vertical or horizontal.
Statement II : Vertical excavation aims to understand the chronological sequence of a site, while horizontal excavation exposes the spatial layout of a particular period.

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(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

17. The 'Aryan Debates' primarily revolve around:
(A) The economic policies of the Mahajanapadas.
(B) The origin and migration of the people associated with Vedic culture.
(C) The script used by the Harappan civilization.
(D) The religious philosophies of Jainism and Buddhism.

18. Arrange the following foreign observers of India in chronological order:
1. Megasthenes
2. Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)
3. Fa-Hien (Faxian)
4. Al-Biruni

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 1, 3, 2, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

19. Which of the following is a defining characteristic of a Chalcolithic culture?
(A) The exclusive use of stone tools.
(B) The first use of iron for tools and weapons.
(C) The use of both copper/bronze and stone tools.
(D) The absence of agriculture and settled life.

20. Which of these was a major Harappan site known for its dockyard?
(A) Mohenjo-daro
(B) Harappa
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Lothal

21. Consider the following statements about Megaliths in South India:
1. They are monumental structures made of large stones.
2. They are exclusively associated with the Harappan civilization.
3. They often served as burial sites or commemorative monuments.
4. Their appearance coincides with the introduction of iron technology in the region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4
(D) All of the above

22. The concept of 'Second Urbanization' in the 6th century BCE is characterized by:
(A) The exclusive development of coastal port towns.
(B) The reappearance of cities and towns after the decline of the Harappan civilization.
(C) The building of cities entirely out of stone.
(D) The establishment of urban centers by Greek invaders.

23. The Ajivika sect, a contemporary of Buddhism and Jainism, was founded by:
(A) Vardhamana Mahavira
(B) Gautama Buddha
(C) Ajita Kesakambali
(D) Makkhali Gosala

24. Which of the following is NOT a recognized method for the dating of archaeological sites?
(A) Phrenology
(B) Carbon-14 Dating
(C) Dendrochronology
(D) Stratigraphy

25. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The political institutions of the Rig Vedic period, such as Sabha and Samiti, exercised considerable influence on the king.
Reason (R) : The Rig Vedic polity was essentially tribal, and the king's authority was dependent on the consent and support of the tribe and its councils.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

26. Which of the following pairs of Harappan site and its unique feature is incorrectly matched?
(A) Dholavira - Absence of water management systems

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(B) Mohenjo-daro - Great Bath
(C) Lothal - Dockyard
(D) Kalibangan - Ploughed field surface

27. The shift from pastoralism to large-scale food production is a hallmark of which phase?
(A) Paleolithic
(B) Mesolithic
(C) The Later Vedic Period
(D) Neolithic

28. The 'problem of dating' in the context of Indigenous Indian literature often refers to:
(A) The lack of any calendars or chronological systems.
(B) The oral tradition of transmission, which makes fixing a precise date for the original composition difficult.
(C) The deliberate falsification of dates by later authors.
(D) The destruction of all manuscripts before the medieval period.

29. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Concept)
P. Republican State
Q. Monarchical State
R. Heterodox Sect
S. Social Stratification
List II: (Example)
1. Magadha
2. Varna System
3. Vajji confederacy
4. Buddhism
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

30. Which of the following factors is LEAST cited as a potential cause for the decline of the Indus Civilization?
(A) Ecological degradation due to deforestation and over-cultivation.
(B) Natural disasters like floods and tectonic shifts.
(C) A gradual decline in internal and external trade networks.
(D) A massive, single-event military invasion by Aryans.

31. Consider the following sources of ancient Indian history:
(A) Greek accounts
(B) Neolithic tools
(C) Chinese accounts
(D) Arabic accounts
(E) Vedic literature
Which of the above are classified as 'Foreign Accounts'?
(A) a, b, and c
(B) a, c, and d
(C) c, d, and e
(D) b, c, and d

32. What is the most appropriate description of 'craft specialization' in the Harappan context?
(A) Households functioned as self-sufficient units producing all necessary survival goods.
(B) Specific settlements or localized areas focused on the production of specialized goods.
(C) Craft production was strictly limited to basic utility items like pottery and weaving.
(D) Artisanal activities were exclusively managed and controlled by visiting foreign experts.

33. The religious and philosophical ideas of the Later Vedic period are most profoundly expressed in which texts?
(A) The Samhitas of the Rigveda
(B) The Upanishads
(C) The Brahmanas
(D) The Puranas

34. A 'Republican State' (Gana-Sangha) in the Mahajanapada period was characterized by:
(A) Governance by an assembly or a council of chiefs.
(B) A single, hereditary king with absolute power.
(C) Direct rule by the Mauryan emperor.
(D) The absence of any form of government.

35. The distribution patterns of Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlements are primarily studied by archaeologists to understand:
(A) The ancient linguistic affiliations and

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dialects of the early inhabitants.
(B) The comparative levels of formal literacy and academic education.
(C) Dynamics of human-environment interaction and regional resource utilization.
(D) The precise chronological date marking the beginning of the universe.

36. Which statement about the settlement pattern of the Indus/Harappa Civilization is most accurate?
(A) All settlements were of a uniform, large size.
(B) The civilization consisted only of rural, agricultural villages.
(C) People lived in nomadic camps without permanent structures.
(D) Settlements were typically divided into a lower town and a raised citadel.

37. Which of the following events occurred earliest in the chronological sequence?
(A) Emergence of the first urbanisation.
(B) Emergence of the second urbanisation.
(C) Rise of Neolithic-Chalcolithic food production.
(D) Introduction of iron technology.

38. 'Primary' literary sources are distinguished from 'secondary' sources because they are:
(A) Always written in a more complex language.
(B) Contemporary or near-contemporary to the events they describe.
(C) Written by modern historians based on analysis.
(D) Exclusively religious in nature.

39. The term 'patterns of exchange' in the context of Neolithic-Chalcolithic phases refers to:
(A) The informal exchange of verbal greetings and social customs between tribes.
(B) The complex system of Varna-based social obligations and hereditary duties.
(C) The political processes involved in the succession of ancient royal lineages.
(D) The systematic movement and trade of raw materials and finished artisanal goods.

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Aryan debates:
1. One theory proposes that the Aryans were indigenous to the Indian subcontinent.
2. Another major theory suggests a migration from the Central Asian steppes.
3. Linguistic evidence, particularly the connection between Sanskrit and other Indo-European languages, is central to the debat(E)
4. The debate has been definitively settled in favour of the indigenous theory.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

41. The religious beliefs of the Harappan people, as inferred from archaeological evidence, likely included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Worship of a mother goddess figure.
(B) Veneration of a proto-Shiva figure.
(C) Construction of large, elaborate temples for congregational worship.
(D) Animal and tree worship.

42. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The 6th century BCE was a period of significant economic and social development in the Gangetic valley.
Reason (R) : The widespread use of iron tools for agriculture and crafts created a surplus, which supported the growth of towns, trade, and new social classes.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

43. Which of the following best describes the 'state structure' during the Rig Vedic period?
(A) A highly centralized and complex bureaucratic empire.
(B) A series of independent city-states ruled by merchant guilds.
(C) A vast system of sixteen large territorial kingdoms.
(D) A tribal polity led by a chieftain with limited authority.

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44. Myths and legends, while not factual history, are useful literary sources because they:
(A) Provide a precise timeline of dynastic succession.
(B) Reveal the shared social values and worldviews of an ancient society.
(C) Contain detailed records of economic transactions.
(D) Are completely free from any form of bias or exaggeration.

45. The study of the distribution, settlement, and tools of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases primarily falls under the domain of:
(A) Epigraphy
(B) Numismatics
(C) Prehistoric Archaeology
(D) Textual Criticism

46. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Secular literature, such as the Arthashastra, is free from religious influence and focuses on polity, law, and economy.
Statement II : Religious literature, such as the Puranas, is solely concerned with myths and rituals, containing no information on historical genealogies or social norms.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

47. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus/Harappa Civilization:
(A) Its geographical extent was larger than that of contemporary Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations combined.
(B) The script of the civilization has been successfully deciphered and is related to modern Sanskrit.
(C) Major sites include Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, and Rakhigarhi.
(D) The economy was primarily based on hunting and gathering, with minimal agriculture.
(E) External trade with Mesopotamia is evidenced by the presence of Harappan seals ther(E)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d
(B) b, c, and d
(C) a, c, and e
(D) c, d, and e

48. The emergence of 'Varnas' and 'Social Stratification' became more rigid and hereditary during the:
(A) Harappan period
(B) Later Vedic period
(C) Neolithic period
(D) Rig Vedic period

49. Which of the following is a key reason for the emergence of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism?
(A) A popular desire to return to Harappan religious practices.
(B) A direct reaction against the dominance of rituals and the priestly class.
(C) A directive from the Persian emperor to create new religions.
(D) The discovery of new scientific principles that disproved Vedic cosmology.

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50. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Varna
Q. Mahajanapada
R. Chalcolithic
S. Epigraphy
List II: (Description)
1. Study of inscriptions
2. Copper-Stone Age
3. Social stratification
4. Large territorial state
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

51. What is the defining feature of 'food production' that distinguishes the Neolithic from earlier periods?
(A) The gathering of wild fruits and nuts.
(B) The hunting of large animals in groups.
(C) The deliberate cultivation of plants and domestication of animals.
(D) The reliance on fishing in coastal areas.

52. Chinese accounts, like those of Fa-Hien and Xuanzang, are particularly valuable for reconstructing the history of:
(A) The Harappan trade routes.
(B) The military strategies of the Mahajanapadas.
(C) The megalithic culture of South India.
(D) The state of Buddhism and Buddhist sites in India.

53. The 'theories of State' that developed in the Later Vedic and post-Vedic period often explored:
(A) The principles of republican democracy.
(B) The complete abolition of the state.
(C) The divine origin and contractual nature of kingship.
(D) The economic model for a socialist state.

54. The extent of the Harappan civilization did not include which of the following modern regions?
(A) Gujarat
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Punjab
(D) Haryana

55. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Numismatics is a crucial source for understanding the economy of ancient India.
Reason (R) : The material, spread, and purity of coins provide insights into trade, metallurgy, and the economic prosperity of a kingdom, which cannot be found in literary texts.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

56. The transition from a semi-nomadic, pastoral society in the Rig Vedic period to a settled, agrarian society is a key feature of the:
(A) Later Vedic Period
(B) Chalcolithic Phase
(C) Harappan Decline
(D) Rise of Mahajanapadas

57. Consider the following statements about the excavation process in archaeology:
1. Stratigraphy, the study of layers, is a fundamental principl(E)
2. The principle of superposition states that lower layers are generally older than upper layers.
3. All artifacts found at a site are of the same age, regardless of the layer.
4. The primary goal of excavation is to find gold and precious jewels.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2 and 4 only

58. Which of these Mahajanapadas was a republic rather than a monarchy?
(A) Vajji
(B) Magadha
(C) Kosala
(D) Avanti

59. The 'patterns of exchange' in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases are best evidenced by:
(A) The universal use of a single currency across all settlements.
(B) Written trade agreements and contracts from the period.
(C) The detailed descriptions of trade in Vedic literature.
(D) The presence of non-local materials far from their original source.

60. Arrange the following sources of history in the general order of their appearance:
1. Puranic Genealogies
2. Harappan Seals
3. Ashokan Edicts
4. Punch-marked Coins
Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

61. What does the term 'internal trade' signify in the context of the Indus Civilization?
(A) Trade exclusively within a single household.
(B) Trade between the Indus Valley and Mesopotamia.
(C) Exchange of goods between different cities and regions within the Harappan cultural

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zone.
(D) A psychological process of bartering with oneself.

62. The introduction of iron technology had a significant impact on:
(A) The religious beliefs of the Harappans.
(B) The dating methods used in archaeology.
(C) The decline of pastoralism in the Neolithic age.
(D) The political and economic landscape of the Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods.

63. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Period/Civilization)
P. Neolithic Phase
Q. Harappa Civilization
R. Later Vedic Period
S. Age of Mahajanapadas
List II: (Key Development)
1. Second Urbanization
2. Introduction of Iron
3. First Food Production
4. First Urbanization
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

64. Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the limitations of foreign accounts as a historical source?
(A) They are always completely accurate and free from bias.
(B) They may contain cultural misunderstandings or specific authorial biases.
(C) They were written by people who had a perfect understanding of Indian society and customs.
(D) They are less valuable than myths and legends for reconstructing political history.

65. The social institutions of the Vedic period are best understood by studying:
(A) Harappan seals and pottery.
(B) The Vedic literature, including the Samhitas, Brahmanas, and Sutras.
(C) Megalithic burial sites in South India.
(D) Greek accounts of Alexander's invasion.

66. Consider the following characteristics:
(A) Urban planning with a grid pattern.
(B) Use of burnt bricks in construction.
(C) An undeciphered pictographic script.
d. Evidence of trade with Mesopotami(A)
(E) Absence of iron technology.
Which of the above are characteristic features of the Indus/Harappa Civilization?
(A) a, b, and d only
(B) c, d, and e only
(C) a, c, and e only
(D) a, b, c, d, and e

67. The primary distinction between Monarchical and Republican states during the Mahajanapada period lay in:
(A) The specific type of metallic currency adopted by the state.
(B) The primary dialect spoken by the majority of the population.
(C) The nature of political authority, whether collective or hereditary.
(D) The dominant agricultural crop cultivated within the territory.

68. The study of indigenous religious literature like the Vedas and Puranas for history writing requires a critical approach because:
(A) They are written in a script that nobody can read.
(B) Their primary focus was spiritual rather than historical record-keeping.
(C) They were all written by foreign authors.
(D) Their primary purpose was religious and ritualistic, not historical documentation.

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69. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Neolithic phase is characterized by the beginning of agriculture and a settled life.
Statement II : The Chalcolithic phase is marked by the first use of metal, specifically copper, alongside stone tools.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

70. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The emergence of Jainism and Buddhism in the 6th century BCE challenged the existing Vedic social and religious order.
Reason (R) : Both religions rejected the authority of the Vedas, questioned the efficacy of elaborate rituals, and were more inclusive, attracting those marginalized by the Varna system.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

71. The Megaliths of South India are roughly contemporary with which period in North India?
(A) The mature Harappan phase.
(B) The Neolithic period.
(C) The Gupta period.
(D) The Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods.

72. Which of the following is not a primary archaeological source?
(A) A historical novel based on the Vedic period
(B) Pottery shards
(C) Ancient coins
(D) The ruins of a Harappan city

73. The 'Aryan Debates' are an example of a historical problem where evidence is primarily drawn from:
(A) Epigraphy and Numismatics
(B) Foreign accounts and myths
(C) Archaeology and Linguistics
(D) Satellite imagery and geological surveys

74. The political and social institutions of the Later Vedic period show a trend towards:
(A) Greater territorial administration and increased royal authority.
(B) Increasing power of the tribal assemblies like Sabha and Samiti.
(C) A decline in the importance of the king or Rajan.
(D) The complete dissolution of the Varna system.

75. Consider the following statements about the decline of the Indus Civilization:
1. It was a sudden and uniform collapse across all sites simultaneously.
2. The "Aryan Invasion Theory" as a sole cause is now largely discredited by archaeologists.
3. Ecological factors like the drying of rivers ((E)g., Ghaggar-Hakra) are considered a major contributing caus(E)
4. After the decline, urban life completely vanished from the subcontinent until the modern er(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

76. The emergence of a money economy and long-distance trade routes were significant economic developments of which period?
(A) The Neolithic phase
(B) The period of the Mahajanapadas
(C) The Rig Vedic period
(D) The Mesolithic period

77. Which one of the following provides the most appropriate definition of 'Pastoralism'?
(A) A mode of production focused on settled agriculture.
(B) A social system based on urban living.
(C) A way of life centered on herding and managing livestock.
(D) A political theory advocating for monarchical rule.

78. The polity of the Harappan civilization is inferred to be organized and possibly centralized due to:
(A) The discovery of a large number of weapons and forts.
(B) Detailed written records describing the system of government.
(C) The presence of multiple, competing royal dynasties at each site.
(D) The high degree of uniformity in town planning and standards.

79. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Text/Source)

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P. Rigveda
Q. Indica
R. Si-Yu-Ki
S. Punch-marked coins

List II: (Nature/Author)
1. Greek Account (Megasthenes)
2. Earliest Vedic Text
3. Early Indian coinage
4. Chinese Account (Xuanzang)

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

80. The primary difference between 'Primary' and 'Secondary' indigenous literature lies in:
(A) The language they are written in.
(B) Their temporal relationship to the events they describe.
(C) Their length and complexity.
(D) Their geographical origin.

81. Consider the following statements about the Mahajanapadas:
(A) There were sixteen great kingdoms listed in Buddhist and Jaina texts.
(B) They were all monarchies with no republican states among them.
c. Magadha emerged as the most powerful Mahajanapad(A)
d. The emergence of these states marks the 'second urbanization' in Indi(A)
e. They were primarily located in South Indi(A)

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d
(B) a, c, and d
(C) b, c, and e
(D) a, d, and e

82. The term 'distribution' in the context of Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlements refers to:
(A) The geographical spread and location of sites across the landscape.
(B) The social hierarchy within a single village.
(C) The method of dividing food among family members.
(D) The publication of archaeological reports.

83. Which of the following is an example of 'secular literature' from ancient India?
(A) The Upanishads
(B) The Brahmanas
(C) The Arthashastra
(D) The Ramayana

84. The religious life of the Rig Vedic people was primarily focused on:
(A) Idol worship in large temples.
(B) The practice of meditation and asceticism leading to Nirvana.
(C) The veneration of a Mother Goddess and a proto-Shiva figure.
(D) Ritual sacrifices to natural deities like Agni, Indra, and Soma.

85. Arrange the following periods in their correct chronological order:
1. Later Vedic Period
2. Harappan Civilization
3. Neolithic Period
4. Mahajanapada Period

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 3, 1, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

86. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The settlement pattern of Harappan cities, with a fortified citadel and a lower town, reflects social stratification.
Reason (R) : The citadel likely housed the ruling class and important public/ritual structures, while the lower town was for the common populace.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

87. Which of these is a major challenge in using myths and legends for historical reconstruction?
(A) They are too short to be useful.
(B) They are always factually accurate, leaving no room for interpretation.

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(C) They are only available for the most recent historical periods.
(D) The difficulty in distinguishing historical truth from narrative embellishment.

88. The expansion of the state system and the rise of large territorial kingdoms (Mahajanapadas) was greatly facilitated by:
(A) Improved control over agricultural surplus through iron technology.
(B) A decline in agricultural production.
(C) The end of all forms of trade and commerce.
(D) A popular vote to form larger states.

89. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Epigraphy is the study of old writing used in manuscripts, while paleography is the study of inscriptions on stone.
Statement II : Numismatics is solely the collection of coins for their aesthetic value, with no historical purpose.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

90. The concept of 'First Urbanization' in India implies:
(A) The first time cities and urban life emerged, as seen in the Harappan civilization.
(B) The first instance of people living in villages.
(C) The foundation of modern cities like Delhi and Mumbai.
(D) The urban renewal projects of the Mauryan empire.

91. Consider the following features:
1. Presence of polished stone tools (celts).
2. Domestication of plants and animals.
3. Development of pottery for storag(E)
4. Beginning of settled village lif(E)
These features are characteristic of which phase?
(A) Paleolithic
(B) Mesolithic
(C) Neolithic
(D) Early Vedic

92. The 'Aryan Debates' are primarily concerned with the identity of the people associated with which body of literature?
(A) The Puranas
(B) The Vedic corpus
(C) The Sangam poems
(D) The Jataka tales

93. The decline of the Indus civilization is a topic of debate, but archaeologists generally agree that:
(A) It was a singular event, not a process.
(B) It was uniform and simultaneous across all sites.
(C) It was a regionalized and multi-causal process of decline.
(D) It was caused by a massive volcanic eruption that buried all the cities.

94. What is the key difference between the religious ideas of the Early Vedic and Later Vedic periods?
(A) The Early Vedic period was monotheistic, while the Later Vedic period was polytheistic.
(B) Animal sacrifice was absent in the Early Vedic period but became central in the Later Vedic period.
(C) The Later Vedic period completely abandoned all religious practices.
(D) Prominent nature deities were superseded by a new triad of major gods.

95. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Site)
P. Lothal
Q. Kalibangan
R. Mohenjo-daro
S. Mehrgarh
List II: (Defining Archaeological Evidence)
1. Great Bath
2. Ploughed field
3. Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement
4. Dockyard
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

96. The state structure in the Later Vedic period saw the rise of the importance of:
(A) The 'gana' or tribal assembly.
(B) The concept of 'janapada' or territory, over 'jana' or tribe.
(C) The elected chieftain with limited powers.

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(D) The complete absence of any state.

97. From the perspective of archaeological sources, what is 'Exploration'?
(A) The detailed, layer-by-layer digging of a known site.
(B) The process of searching for and identifying new archaeological sites.
(C) The analysis of artifacts in a laboratory.
(D) The writing of a report on an excavated site.

98. The emergence of heterodox sects in the 6th century BCE can be seen as a:
(A) Social and intellectual ferment questioning established Brahmanical orthodoxy.
(B) Political movement to overthrow monarchies.
(C) Purely economic phenomenon driven by merchants.
(D) Result of foreign influence from Persia.

99. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The introduction and spread of iron technology around 1000 BCE was a transformative event in Indian history.
Reason (R) : Iron tools made it possible to clear the dense forests of the Gangetic plains, leading to agricultural expansion and state formation.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

100. Which of the following statements about Harappan trade is incorrect?
(A) They had trade links with Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf.
(B) Trade was likely carried out through a barter system.
(C) Lothal served as an important port for maritime trade.
(D) The Harappans imported iron from Mesopotamia for making tools.

101. Consider the following statements regarding social stratification in the Vedic Age:
(A) In the Rig Vedic period, social divisions were less rigid and possibly based more on profession.
(B) The 'Purusha Sukta' hymn of the Rigveda provides a mythical origin for the four Varnas.
(C) In the Later Vedic period, the Varna system became rigid, hereditary, and based on birth.
(D) The concept of untouchability began to emerge towards the end of the Later Vedic perio(D)
e. The Varna system was a feature of the Harappan civilization, not the Vedi(C)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, c, and d
(B) a, c, and e
(C) b, d, and e
(D) a, b, and e

102. The tools of the Chalcolithic phase are distinguished from the Neolithic phase by:
(A) The complete absence of stone tools.
(B) The introduction of copper tools alongside the existing stone tool technology.
(C) The first appearance of polished stone axes.
(D) The exclusive use of iron implements.

103. 'Dating of Archaeological Sites' is crucial for:
(A) Determining the monetary value of the artifacts found.
(B) Identifying the ethnicity of the people who lived there.
(C) Proving that all ancient cultures were the same.
(D) Constructing cultural sequences and chronological frameworks.

104. In the context of Vedic political institutions, the 'Samiti' was:
(A) A broader assembly of the common people of the tribe.
(B) A small, select council of elders or Brahmanas.
(C) The king's personal bodyguard.
(D) A judicial court for resolving disputes.

105. Arrange the following developments in the correct chronological sequence:
1. Emergence of Jainism and Buddhism
2. Mature phase of the Indus Civilization
3. Composition of the Rig Veda
4. Use of iron tools in the Gangetic valley

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Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

106. The society and polity of the Harappan civilization remain partially enigmatic primarily due to:
(A) The inability to decipher the Indus script.
(B) The complete lack of archaeological evidence.
(C) The destruction of all sites by natural disasters.
(D) The refusal of modern scholars to study the topic.

107. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the second urbanization in 6th century BCE?
(A) The growth of towns and cities in the Gangetic basin.
(B) The use of burnt bricks and ring wells.
(C) The reappearance of writing after the Harappan script.
(D) The dominance of a single, unified empire across the entire subcontinent.

108. The Megaliths of South India, large stone structures, were primarily associated with:
(A) Agricultural fields.
(B) Burial sites and mortuary rituals.
(C) Palaces of kings.
(D) Astronomical observatories.

109. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Rigveda is a single, monolithic text written at a single point in time.
Statement II : The Rigveda is a collection of hymns composed by various sages over several centuries, with the earliest and latest parts showing linguistic and conceptual differences.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

110. The concept of 'patterns of exchange' during the Neolithic-Chalcolithic period is largely inferred from:
(A) Written economic treatises from the period.
(B) The discovery of standardized coinage.
(C) Oral traditions passed down to the present day.
(D) Provenance analysis of non-local materials at specific sites.

111. Consider the following statements about historical sources:
1. Archaeological sources include inscriptions, coins, and monuments.
2. Literary sources can be divided into indigenous and foreign accounts.
3. Myths and legends are a type of literary source but must be used with caution.
4. An autobiography is an example of a secondary literary sourc(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

112. The emergence of the Varna system marks a significant development in:
(A) Harappan urban planning.
(B) Vedic social stratification.
(C) Neolithic tool technology.
(D) The foreign policy of the Mahajanapadas.

113. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Foreign accounts by Greek, Chinese, and Arabic writers are invaluable for reconstructing ancient Indian history.
Reason (R) : These accounts often provide chronological information and details about political and social conditions that are absent or unclear in indigenous sources.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

114. The term 'craft specialization' in the Harappan context refers to the concentration of production of certain goods in specific areas. Which site is famously associated with bead-making?
(A) Chanhudaro
(B) Rakhigarhi

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(C) Mohenjo-daro
(D) Kalibangan

115. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Founder)
P. Gautama Buddha
Q. Vardhamana Mahavira
R. Makkhali Gosala
S. Kautilya
List II: (Associated Philosophy/Text)
1. Ajivika Sect
2. Arthashastra
3. Jainism
4. Buddhism
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

116. The religious and philosophical ideas of the Vedic period underwent significant evolution. Which texts mark a shift from ritualism towards philosophical speculation about the soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman)?
(A) The Brahmanas
(B) The Samhitas
(C) The Puranas
(D) The Upanishads

117. What was the primary mode of subsistence during the pastoral Neolithic phase?
(A) Industrial manufacturing.
(B) Hunting large game with stone spears.
(C) A combination of animal herding and early forms of agriculture.
(D) Maritime trade and fishing.

118. The term 'excavation' in archaeology refers to:
(A) The initial surface survey of a region.
(B) The scientific digging of a site to recover and record archaeological remains.
(C) The process of dating an artifact in a lab.
(D) The publication of findings in a journal.

119. A major social development in the Later Vedic period was the:
(A) Disappearance of the family unit.
(B) Establishment of a completely egalitarian society.
(C) Adoption of the Harappan social structure.
(D) Increasing rigidity of the Varna system and the priestly class.

120. Consider the following pairs:
1. Epigraphy: Study of coins
2. Numismatics: Study of inscriptions
3. Archaeology: Study of literary texts
4. Exploration: Discovery of sites
Which of the above pairs is correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 2
(B) 3 only
(C) 4 only
(D) 2 and 4

121. The origin of the Indus Civilization is best understood as:
(A) A direct colonization by Mesopotamian people.
(B) A sudden, miraculous event without any prior development.
(C) An indigenous development evolving from earlier Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures in the region.
(D) A result of the Aryan migration into India.

122. The state structure of the Mahajanapadas was characterized by:
(A) A mix of monarchical and republican systems.
(B) A single, unified political entity.
(C) A complete absence of any government.
(D) Rule by foreign invaders exclusively.

123. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The decline of the Harappan civilization led to the immediate rise of the Vedic civilization in the same urban centers.
Statement II : There is a discernible chronological and cultural gap between the end of the urban Harappan phase and the emergence of the rural, pastoralist society described in the Rigveda.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

124. The introduction of iron technology in the Gangetic valley was a crucial factor in the:
(A) Decline of the Harappan Civilization.

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(B) Emergence of the second urbanization.
(C) Success of pastoralism.
(D) Construction of megaliths.

125. Consider the following sources for Ancient Indian History:
(A) Greek Accounts
(B) Puranas
(C) Jataka Tales
(D) Chinese Accounts
(E) Ashokan Edicts
Which of the above can be classified as 'Literary Sources'?
(A) a, b, c, d, e
(B) a, b, c, and d
(C) b, c, e
(D) e only

126. The society of the Rig Vedic period is best described as:
(A) Urban and highly stratified.
(B) Matriarchal and agrarian.
(C) An industrial society with a large working class.
(D) Patriarchal, pastoral, and semi-nomadic.

127. Which of the following is NOT a recognized region associated with the Mahajanapadas?
(A) Harappa
(B) Magadha
(C) Koshala
(D) Avanti

128. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic phase marks a revolutionary change in human history, often called the 'Neolithic Revolution'.
Reason (R) : The advent of food production allowed for settled life, population growth, and the development of new social and technological structures.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

129. The religious philosophy of the Ajivika sect was based on:
(A) The concept of karma and rebirth controlled by individual action.
(B) The doctrine of absolute determinism (Niyati), where everything is pre-ordained.
(C) Devotion to a single, all-powerful creator god.
(D) The performance of elaborate Vedic sacrifices.

130. The major sites of the Harappan Civilization were primarily located along which river systems?
(A) The Indus and its tributaries, and the now-dry Ghaggar-Hakra.
(B) The Ganga and Yamuna.
(C) The Narmada and Tapti.
(D) The Kaveri and Krishna.

131. Consider the following statements about archaeological sources:
1. Exploration is the systematic search for sites.
2. Excavation involves the careful digging of sites to uncover remains.
3. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions.
4. Numismatics is the study of coins.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(D) 1 and 3 only

132. The 'Aryan Debates' are a complex issue with various theories. What is the 'Out of India' theory?
(A) The theory that Aryans migrated from Central Asia into India.
(B) The theory that the Aryans were the original inhabitants of the Harappan Civilization.
(C) The theory that Aryans migrated from the Arctic region.
(D) The theory that Indo-European languages originated and expanded from India.

133. The 'second urbanization' in India during the 6th century BCE is strongly associated with:
(A) The decline of trade and commerce.
(B) The exclusive use of stone and wood for building.

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(C) The rise of Mahajanapadas and an agrarian surplus-producing economy.
(D) The influence of the Roman Empire.

134. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Sabha
Q. Varna
R. Janapada
S. Ajivika
List II: (Meaning/Association)
1. Heterodox Sect
2. Later Vedic territorial unit
3. Vedic Assembly
4. Social Class
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

135. The decline of the Indus Civilization represents the end of:
(A) All human settlement in the Indian subcontinent.
(B) The use of pottery and agriculture.
(C) The Vedic period.
(D) The Bronze Age urbanism in the region for several centuries.

136. What is a primary tool for reconstructing 'patterns of exchange' in the pre-literate Chalcolithic phase?
(A) Scientific analysis of material composition and origins for traded goods.
(B) Reading the trade records left by Chalcolithic merchants.
(C) Examining the road network built during the period.
(D) Analyzing the tax records of Chalcolithic kings.

137. The philosophical ideas of the Vedic period, especially in its later phase, laid the groundwork for:
(A) The political structure of the Harappan state.
(B) The technology of iron smelting.
(C) Foundations of numerous major Indian religions and schools of thought.
(D) The script of the Ashokan edicts.

138. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Indigenous literature includes primary sources, written during the period being studied, and secondary sources, written later.
Statement II : A history book written today about the Mahajanapadas is an example of a primary indigenous literary source.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

139. The political institutions of the Rig Vedic period, such as the Sabha and Samiti, suggest a political structure that was more:
(A) Autocratic and centralized.
(B) Anarchic and without leaders.
(C) Bureaucratic and departmentalized.
(D) Oligarchic and council-based.

140. Consider the following characteristics regarding the Chalcolithic phase:
(A) Use of copper and stone tools.
(B) Generally rural, non-urban settlements.
(C) Presence of painted pottery.
(D) Precedes the full-fledged Iron Age.
(E) Post-dates the pure Neolithic stone tool cultures.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d only
(B) c, d, and e only
(C) a, c, and e only
(D) a, b, c, d, and e

141. Megaliths, found extensively in South India, are important archaeological sources for understanding the:
(A) Town planning of the Harappan civilization.
(B) Trade relations with Rome.
(C) Burial customs and social structure of the Iron Age in that region.
(D) Early Vedic religious rituals.

142. The emergence of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism was concentrated in which geographical region?
(A) The extreme south of India.
(B) The Indus valley.
(C) The Himalayan highlands.

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(D) The middle Gangetic plain.

143. Which of the following best describes the 'settlement pattern' of the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) A network of planned cities, towns, and villages with a hierarchical structure.
(B) Dispersed, nomadic camps with no permanent structures.
(C) A single, massive city surrounded by wilderness.
(D) Uniformly small agricultural hamlets without any urban centers.

144. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The problem of dating is a significant challenge when using religious literature like the Puranas for history.
Reason (R) : The Puranas were compiled and redacted over many centuries, making it difficult to assign a specific date to their contents, which often mix myth with potential historical information.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

145. The "Aryan Debates" are significant because they touch upon questions of:
(A) The economic policy of the Mauryan empire.
(B) The origins of the Vedic culture and its relationship with the Harappan civilization.
(C) The decline of Buddhism in India.
(D) The construction techniques of South Indian temples.

146. Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the Vedic and Later Vedic periods?
(A) The Varna system remained flexible in the Rig Vedic period but became rigid later.
(B) The Rig Vedic society was primarily pastoral, while the Later Vedic society became more agrarian.
(C) The position of the king became more powerful and hereditary in the Later Vedic period.
(D) Rituals and sacrifices became more complex and elaborate in the Later Vedic period.

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147. What is the most significant contribution of Numismatics to the study of ancient history?
(A) It provides information on the artistic tastes of the elite.
(B) It is the only source for understanding religious beliefs.
(C) It facilitates reconstruction of chronologies, territories, and economic conditions.
(D) It offers detailed narratives of social life.

148. The emergence of states, both monarchical and republican, is a key political development of which period?
(A) The Neolithic Age
(B) The Harappan Civilization
(C) The Rig Vedic Period
(D) The Mahajanapada Period (c. 6th century BCE)

149. Arrange the following sources/events in chronological order of their origin:
1. Arabic accounts of India ((E)g., Al-Biruni)
2. Greek accounts of India ((E)g., Megasthenes)
3. Harappan seals
4. Chinese accounts of India ((E)g., Fa-Hien)

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 3, 4, 2, 1
(C) 3, 2, 4, 1
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

150. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Civilization/Period)
P. Harappan Civilization
Q. Rig Vedic Period
R. Later Vedic Period
S. Mahajanapada Period
List II: (Dominant Polity Type)
1. Emergence of territorial states (Janapadas)
2. Large monarchical and republican states
3. Tribal chiefdom (Jana)
4. Presumed centralized state (Priest-King/ Oligarchy)

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

151. What distinguishes the Neolithic phase from pastoralism?
(A) Neolithic phase involves hunting and gathering, while pastoralism involves agriculture.
(B) Pastoralism uses iron tools, while the Neolithic phase uses only stone.
(C) There is no difference between the two terms.
(D) Pastoralism constitutes one element of the comprehensive Neolithic economic system.

152. Which of the following statements about the polity of the Indus Valley Civilization is the most plausible inference?
(A) It possessed centralized authority as seen in standardized weights and planning.
(B) It was a democracy with universal adult franchise.
(C) It consisted of numerous small, warring tribes with no central control.
(D) It was ruled by a foreign power from Mesopotamia.

153. 'Religious and secular literature' are two categories of which type of historical source?
(A) Archaeological
(B) Epigraphic
(C) Literary
(D) Numismatic

154. The transition from the Rig Vedic to the Later Vedic period is marked by:
(A) A shift in the geographical focus from the Saptasindhu region to the Gangetic plains.
(B) A complete abandonment of the Sanskrit language.
(C) A decline in agriculture and a return to a nomadic lifestyle.
(D) The peaceful assimilation of Harappan urban culture.

155. Consider the following statements regarding Jainism and Buddhism:
(A) Both emerged in the 6th century BCE in the Gangetic valley.
(B) Both challenged the authority of the Vedas and the supremacy of Brahmanas.
(C) Both advocated non-violence (Ahimsa).
(D) Both initially used vernacular languages (like Prakrit and Pali) to spread their teachings.
(E) Both believed in a supreme creator God who judges human actions.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and e
(B) a, b, c, and d
(C) c, d, and e
(D) a, b, and d only

156. The theories of state in the post-Vedic period often explored:
(A) Popular elections held every five years.
(B) Sacred consecration rituals and assertions of divine approval.
(C) The support of a powerful standing army alone.
(D) A written constitution drafted by the people.

157. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Harappan civilization is called the first urbanization of India.
Statement II: The emergence of Mahajanapadas and associated towns in the Gangetic basin is called the second urbanization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

158. The 'Megaliths of South India' are archaeologically significant because they represent:
(A) The earliest evidence of agriculture in the subcontinent.
(B) The southernmost outposts of the Harappan civilization.
(C) The palaces of the Chola dynasty.
(D) The regional transition to the Iron Age and specific mortuary traditions.

159. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The decline of the Indus civilization was not a single event but a gradual process of de-urbanization.
Reason (R) : Different sites show evidence of decline at different times, and regional

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factors played a significant role, leading to a transformation into post-Harappan Chalcolithic cultures.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

160. Which of the following is the best example of 'internal trade' within the Harappan civilization?
(A) The movement of lapis lazuli from Afghanistan to Mohenjo-daro.
(B) The movement of carnelian beads from Lothal (Gujarat) to Harappa (Punjab).
(C) The export of Harappan seals to Mesopotamia.
(D) The import of tin from the Roman Empire.

161. Consider the following statements regarding the sources for ancient Indian history:
1. Epigraphy is the study of ancient inscriptions.
2. Numismatics is the study of ancient coins.
3. Greek, Chinese, and Arabic accounts are major foreign literary sources.
4. The Rigveda is considered a primary indigenous literary sourc(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

162. The 'settlement distribution' of the Chalcolithic phase shows:
(A) A wide dispersal of agricultural and pastoral communities across various eco-zones, particularly in Western and Central India.
(B) A concentration only in the high Himalayas.
(C) The existence of only two or three massive cities.
(D) A complete absence of settlements in river valleys.

163. The religion of the Rig Vedic Aryans can be best described as:
(A) Monotheistic, with worship of a single creator god.
(B) Animistic, with a belief in nature spirits.
(C) A form of naturalistic polytheism, involving the worship of personified natural forces.
(D) Atheistic, with no belief in gods.

164. The emergence of Varnas as a system of social stratification is first mentioned in a mythological context in the:
(A) Arthashastra of Kautilya.
(B) Edicts of Ashoka.
(C) Indica of Megasthenes.
(D) Purusha Sukta of the Rigveda.

165. What is the most defining characteristic of the polity during the Mahajanapada period?
(A) A single, unified empire under a paramount sovereign.
(B) A collection of small, isolated tribal units.
(C) The existence of large, competing territorial states (kingdoms and republics).
(D) The absence of any form of government.

166. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Foreign Traveller)
P. Megasthenes
Q. Fa-Hien (Faxian)
R. Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)
S. Al-Biruni
List II: (Associated Period/Ruler)
1. Time of Mahmud of Ghazni
2. Gupta period (Chandra Gupta II)
3. Mauryan period (Chandragupta Maurya)
4. Time of Harshavardhana
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

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167. The decline of the Indus Civilization was followed by:
(A) An immediate re-urbanization under the Aryans.
(B) The rise of the Mauryan Empire.
(C) The direct colonization of the region by the Greeks.
(D) Regional transformation into decentralized and diverse post-Harappan cultures.

168. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Neolithic phase?

(A) Widespread use of iron tools and weaponry.
(B) Food production through agriculture and domestication.
(C) Use of polished stone tools.
(D) Settled life in villages.

169. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The 'Aryan debate' is a settled issue with all historians agreeing on the invasion model.
Statement II : The 'Aryan debate' is a complex and ongoing scholarly discussion involving linguistic, archaeological, and genetic evidence, with no single theory being universally accepted.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

170. The economic and social developments of the 6th century BCE, which led to the second urbanization, were underpinned by:
(A) Expanding agriculture and iron tools that generated significant surpluses.
(B) The large-scale adoption of a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.
(C) A decline in trade and the closure of all markets.
(D) The complete collapse of social stratification.

171. Consider the following archaeological sources:
1. Exploration
2. Excavation
3. Epigraphy
4. Numismatics

Which of these involves the study of material remains recovered through digging?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1 and 2 only

172. The political institutions of the Rig Vedic Aryans were organized around the:
(A) Janapada (territory)
(B) Jana (tribe)
(C) Empire (Samrajya)
(D) City-state (Nagara)

173. The major sites of the Indus Civilization, such as Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, are located in present-day:
(A) Nepal and Bhutan
(B) Bangladesh and Myanmar
(C) Pakistan and India
(D) Sri Lanka

174. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The emergence of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism represented a protest against the ritual-dominated Brahmanical religion.
Reason (R) : These new sects emphasized ethical conduct, non-violence, and individual spiritual effort rather than complex, expensive sacrifices.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

175. Consider the following regarding the Mahajanapada period (c. 6th Century BCE):
(A) Monarchical states like Magadha and Kosal(A)
(B) Republican states like the Vajjis and Mallas.
(C) The rise of a money economy with punch-marked coins.
(D) The flourishing of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism.
(E) The absence of cities and iron technology.
Which of the above were characteristics of this period?
(A) a, b, and e
(B) c, d, and e
(C) a, b, c, and d
(D) a, c, and d only

176. The tools of the Neolithic phase were an improvement over earlier periods because they were often:
(A) Made of gold and silver.
(B) Polished for a finer edge and greater durability.
(C) Imported from Mesopotamia.
(D) Used only for ritual purposes.

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177. Which of the following sources would be most useful for studying the administrative and economic policies prescribed for a monarch in ancient India?
(A) The Rigveda
(B) The Arthashastra
(C) The Upanishads
(D) A Harappan seal

178. The term 'first urbanization' is used for the Harappan civilization because it:
(A) Marks the first emergence of planned cities and complex organization.
(B) Was the first human culture of any kind in India.
(C) Was the first culture to use iron.
(D) Was the first culture to engage in agriculture.

179. The social structure of the Later Vedic period is best characterized as:
(A) Egalitarian and flexible.
(B) A two-class system of rulers and ruled.
(C) A highly stratified hierarchy defined by a rigid varna system.
(D) Matriarchal and clan-based.

180. The primary problem in using 'Myths and Legends' for writing history is:
(A) Their scarcity, as very few have survived.
(B) Their complex language that cannot be translated.
(C) Their exclusive focus on economic data.
(D) The significant difficulty in verifying factual content and intent.

181. Which of the following is a correct chronological ordering of technological development?
(A) Iron Age, Bronze Age, Stone Age
(B) Stone Age, Iron Age, Bronze Age
(C) Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age
(D) Bronze Age, Stone Age, Iron Age

182. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Foreign accounts of India, such as those by Megasthenes or Xuanzang, are considered literary sources.
Statement II : These accounts are valuable because they provide an outsider's perspective, though they may contain inaccuracies or biases.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

183. The introduction of iron technology around 1000 BCE is a significant marker for the beginning of the:
(A) Harappan Civilization's mature phase.
(B) Neolithic period.
(C) Chalcolithic period.
(D) Later Vedic Period and subsequent Iron Age cultures.

184. The religion and society of the Indus/Harappa civilization are primarily reconstructed based on:
(A) Material analysis of seals, figurines, and various structural ruins.
(B) Deciphered textual evidence.
(C) The accounts of Vedic Aryans.
(D) The writings of Greek historians.

185. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Phase/Period)
P. Neolithic
Q. Chalcolithic
R. Harappan
S. Later Vedic
List II: (Key Technology/Feature)
1. Use of Iron, Painted Grey Ware
2. Bronze technology, First Urbanization
3. Polished stone tools, First Agriculture
4. Use of copper alongside stone, painted pottery
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

186. The expansion of the state system in the 6th century BCE was characterized by the rise of:
(A) The Mahajanapadas.
(B) Small, nomadic bands.
(C) The Indus Valley cities.
(D) The Mauryan Empire.

187. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Upanishads mark a shift in

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Vedic thought from ritual to philosophy.
Reason (R) : They focus on concepts like Brahman (Ultimate Reality), Atman (Individual Soul), karma, and moksha, moving away from the sacrificial focus of the Brahmanas.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

188. Which of the following is NOT a major theme of the 'Aryan Debates'?
(A) The homeland of the Indo-Aryans.
(B) The succession of rulers in the Magadhan empire.
(C) The relationship between Vedic and Harappan cultures.
(D) The nature of the arrival of Indo-Aryans in India (migration vs. invasion).

189. The most significant economic development that characterized the emergence of the Second Urbanization was:
(A) A shift from agriculture back to hunting and gathering.
(B) A return to barter and the disappearance of currency.
(C) The generation of large agricultural surpluses in the Gangetic basin.
(D) The decline of all craft production.

190. A primary literary source is distinguished from a secondary one by its:
(A) Language.
(B) Length.
(C) Author's fame.
(D) Contemporaneity to the event it describes.

191. Consider the following statements about the Harappan Civilization:
1. It was primarily a rural and pastoral civilization with no cities.
2. It had a well-developed system of town planning and drainag(E)
3. The Harappan script has been deciphered and is read from left to right.
4. It had extensive trade contacts with Mesopotami(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

192. The political structure of the Mahajanapadas included both:
(A) Monarchies and democracies.
(B) Monarchies and republics (gana-sanghas).
(C) Theocracies and anarchies.
(D) Feudal states and colonial outposts.

193. The philosophy of the Ajivikas, known as 'Niyati', posits that:
(A) Human effort can change one's destiny.
(B) Impersonal cosmic principles determine all events, rendering human effort irrelevant.
(C) The world is an illusion.
(D) The only reality is what is perceived by the senses.

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194. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Megaliths of South India are large stone structures used as houses.
Statement II : These megaliths are primarily elaborate burial monuments, often containing iron tools and Black-and-Red ware pottery.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

195. 'Pastoralism and Food production' as economic strategies are most closely associated with the beginning of the:
(A) Paleolithic Age
(B) Mesolithic Age
(C) Neolithic and Chalcolithic Phases
(D) Iron Age

196. Which of the following is the most appropriate reason for the emergence of heterodox sects in the 6th century BCE?
(A) A political vacuum created by the fall of the Mauryan empire.
(B) The direct influence of Greek philosophy after Alexander's invasion.
(C) A period of prolonged famine that made people question the old gods.
(D) Intellectual dissent against Brahmanical ritualism and social hierarchies.

197. The discipline of archaeology primarily deals with:
(A) The study of ancient texts and literature.
(B) The study of the evolution of languages.
(C) The study of past human societies through their material remains.
(D) The study of political theories.

198. Consider the following pairs:
1. Vedic Period : First Urbanization
2. Harappan Civilization : Introduction of Iron
3. Mahajanapada Period : Second Urbanization
4. Neolithic Phase : Pastoralism and Food Production

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 2
(B) 3 and 4
(C) 1 and 3
(D) 2 and 4

199. The "problem of dating" religious literature like the Vedas and Puranas stems from:
(A) The complete absence of any historical personages or events within them.
(B) The use of a simple code that modern scholars have yet to crack.
(C) The fact that they were all written on perishable materials that have completely decayed.
(D) The long period of oral transmission prior to their written compilation.

200. The social stratification of the Later Vedic Period was based on the Varna system, which divided society into:
(A) Four hierarchical groups: Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra.
(B) Two groups: the rulers and the ruled.
(C) Many fluid and interchangeable professional guilds.
(D) Three estates: clergy, nobility, and commoners.

201. Consider the following events:
(A) Beginning of food production in the Neolithic.
(B) Rise of the Mahajanapadas.
(C) Flourishing of Harappan cities.
(D) Composition of Later Vedic texts.
(E) Use of Punch-marked coins.
What is the correct chronological sequence?
(A) c, a, d, b, e
(B) a, d, c, b, e
(C) a, c, d, b, e
(D) d, a, c, e, b

202. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The settlement pattern of the Harappan civilization indicates a sophisticated understanding of urban planning.
Reason (R) : Most cities were laid out on a grid pattern with streets crossing at right angles, and they featured complex water management and drainage systems.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

203. The term 'Republican States' (Gana-Sanghas) in the context of the Mahajanapadas refers to polities governed by:
(A) A hereditary monarch.
(B) A governor appointed by the Persian Emperor.
(C) Priests chosen by religious rituals.
(D) An assembly of clan or lineage heads.

204. The archaeological source of 'Epigraphy' is the study of:
(A) Coins
(B) Inscriptions
(C) Pottery
(D) Stratigraphy

205. The religious and philosophical ideas of the Upanishads are centered around the concepts of:
(A) Performing sacrifices to gain material wealth.
(B) Worshipping natural forces like wind and fire.
(C) Brahman, Atman, and the cycle of rebirth.
(D) The history of royal dynasties.

206. Which of the following best characterizes the economy of the Rig Vedic period?
(A) Urban, with extensive trade based on

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coinage.
(B) Industrial, based on factory production.
(C) Entirely dependent on hunting and gathering.
(D) Pastoral and cattle-centered economy with supplementary agricultural activities.

207. The 'Aryan Debate' involves all the following questions EXCEPT:
(A) What was the tax rate in the Magadhan kingdom?
(B) Were the 'Aryans' a race or a linguistic group?
(C) Did they migrate into India or were they indigenous?
(D) What was their relationship with the Harappans?

208. The tools of the Chalcolithic phase represent an advancement over the Neolithic because they:
(A) Were made exclusively of iron.
(B) Combined the use of stone with the new technology of copper metallurgy.
(C) Were entirely imported from Egypt.
(D) Were used only for warfare.

209. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The decline of the Indus Civilization was a uniform event caused solely by Aryan invasions.
Statement II : Current archaeological consensus points towards a complex, multi-causal process of decline, including climate change, tectonic events, and system collapse, with the invasion theory being largely unsupported.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

210. The major contribution of Chinese travellers like Fa-Hien and Xuanzang to Indian history is their detailed accounts of:
(A) Regional Buddhist sites and the contemporary state of monastic life.
(B) The military organization of Vedic tribes.
(C) The trade between India and the Roman Empire.
(D) The social customs of the Harappan people.

211. Consider the following statements about the expansion of the state system in the 6th century BCE:
1. It saw the rise of sixteen Mahajanapadas.
2. The political systems were exclusively monarchical.
3. This period is also known as the Second Urbanization.
4. The emergence of these states was unrelated to developments in agricultur(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

212. The Megaliths of South India are chronologically placed in the:
(A) Paleolithic Age
(B) Neolithic-Chalcolithic Age
(C) Gupta Period
(D) Iron Age

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213. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Source Type)
P. Archaeological
Q. Literary (Indigenous)
R. Literary (Foreign)
S. Myth/Legend
List II: (Example)
1. Puranic king lists
2. Indica of Megasthenes
3. Harappan pottery
4. Arthashastra

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

214. The origin of the Indus Civilization is now understood by most archaeologists as:
(A) A colony founded by Sumerians.
(B) An indigenous evolution from preceding regional cultures like those at Mehrgarh.
(C) The result of a sudden technological gift from a higher power.
(D) A failed attempt at city-building by Vedic Aryans.

215. The state structure in the Later Vedic period became more elaborate, leading to the development of:
(A) The democratic election of the king for a fixed term.
(B) The complete dissolution of the king's authority.
(C) A return to a nomadic, stateless society.
(D) Incipient administrative structures and the territorial Janapada concept.

216. Consider the following characteristics regarding the Rig Vedic period:
(A) The society was patriarchal and semi-nomadic.
(B) The chief measure of wealth was cattle.
(C) Indra and Agni were major deities.
(D) The state was a tribal polity called 'Jana'.
(E) The Varna system was rigid and hereditary.
Which of the above statements are features of the Rig Vedic period, not the Later Vedic period?
(A) a, b, c, and d
(B) a, c, d, and e
(C) a, b, and e only
(D) c, d, and e only

217. The transition from pastoralism to settled agriculture in the Neolithic phase allowed for:
(A) A decrease in population.
(B) The abandonment of tool making.
(C) The production of a food surplus, leading to population growth and specialization of labor.
(D) A more nomadic and migratory lifestyle.

218. The term 'craft specialization' is evident in Harappan sites like Chanhudaro and Lothal through:
(A) The concentration of workshops and waste materials related to specific crafts like bead-making and shell-working.
(B) The presence of large numbers of administrative tablets.
(C) The discovery of large palaces for kings.
(D) The depiction of craft activities in religious texts.

219. The emergence of Jainism and Buddhism in the 6th century BCE is best viewed as:
(A) A direct continuation of Vedic traditions.
(B) A politically motivated movement to establish a new empire.
(C) An artistic movement focused on new styles of sculpture.
(D) Dissenting responses to socio-religious complexities and ritualistic hierarchies.

220. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Literary sources, both indigenous and foreign, must be used critically for historical reconstruction.
Reason (R) : These sources are often written with a specific bias, purpose, or perspective, and may not represent an objective or complete picture of events.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

221. The main difference between the first urbanization (Harappan) and the second urbanization (Mahajanapada) was:
(A) The first was in the Indus basin, the second in the Gangetic basin.
(B) The first used bronze technology, the second was associated with iron technology.
(C) All of the above.
(D) The first had an undeciphered script, the second saw the return of writing (Brahmi).

222. The term 'patterns of exchange' in the Neolithic-Chalcolithic context is inferred through:
(A) Scientific analysis of the geographical origin of raw materials found at a site.
(B) The reading of commercial contracts from that period.
(C) The analysis of stock market data.
(D) The study of non-local raw materials found at a site.

223. What does "Exploration" mean in the context of archaeological sources?
(A) The systematic search for and documentation of archaeological sites.
(B) The process of digging a site.
(C) The analysis of artifacts in a lab.
(D) The writing of a final report.

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224. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Rig Vedic society was characterized by a rigid and hereditary caste system.
Statement II : The Later Vedic society saw the consolidation of a hierarchical Varna system where social position was largely determined by birth.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

225. The decline of the Harappan civilization was:
(A) A single, sudden event that destroyed all cities at once.
(B) A multi-dimensional and regionally varied process of gradual de-urbanization.
(C) Caused by the Mauryan invasion.
(D) The direct result of the end of the last Ice Age.

226. Which of the following is NOT a heterodox sect that emerged in the 6th century BCE?
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Buddhism
(C) Jainism
(D) Ajivikas

227. The development of a state structure with a king, rudimentary bureaucracy, and territorial basis (Janapada) is a feature of the:
(A) Neolithic Period
(B) Harappan Civilization
(C) Later Vedic Period
(D) Mesolithic Period

228. Arrange the following in correct chronological order:
1. First use of iron in the Gangetic Plain.
2. Use of bronze in the Harappan Civilization.
3. Use of polished stone axes in the Neolithi(C)
4. Rise of the Mahajanapadas.

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 3, 1, 2, 4
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

229. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:

List I: (Concept)
P. First Urbanization
Q. Second Urbanization
R. Introduction of Iron
S. Food Production

List II: (Associated Period/Culture)
1. Mahajanapada Period
2. Neolithic Phase
3. Indus/Harappa Civilization
4. Later Vedic Period

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

230. The religious life of the Harappans is inferred from archaeological findings. Which of the following is NOT believed to be a part of their religious practices?
(A) Worship of a Mother Goddess.
(B) Performance of large public sacrifices as described in the Vedas.
(C) Worship of a "Proto-Shiva" figure.
(D) Fire worship, as evidenced by fire altars at some sites.

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231. Consider the following statements about literary sources:
(A) They can be divided into religious and secular categories.
(B) They include both indigenous works and foreign accounts.
(C) Indigenous works can be primary or secondary.
(D) Myths and legends, despite not being factual, provide insight into a society's beliefs.
(E) All literary sources are 100% historically accurate and free from bias.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and e
(B) c, d, and e
(C) a, b, c, and d
(D) a, b, and d only

232. The distribution of Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites across India helps archaeologists understand:
(A) Adaptive strategies, regional migration patterns, and ancient networks of exchange.
(B) The political boundaries of modern states.

(C) The exact date of the creation of the earth.
(D) The literacy rates in ancient India.

233. The 'Aryan Invasion Theory' in its classical form has been challenged by modern archaeology because:
(A) The Vedas explicitly state that the Aryans came peacefully.
(B) The Harappans were militarily superior to any potential invaders.
(C) Evidence of systematic warfare or sudden cultural displacement is notably absent.
(D) All Harappan sites were found to be abandoned peacefully.

234. In the context of Vedic political institutions, what was the primary role of the 'Sabha'?
(A) To act as a council of select elders, advising the king and performing judicial functions.
(B) To conduct large-scale wars.
(C) To elect a new king every year.
(D) To perform agricultural activities.

235. The introduction of iron technology was particularly transformative for the Gangetic valley because:
(A) The region had no other metals available.
(B) The people of the Gangetic valley had a religious taboo against using bronze.
(C) Iron was primarily used for making ornaments and jewelry.
(D) Iron tools were vastly more efficient for clearing heavy forests and soil.

236. What is the fundamental difference between the Neolithic phase and the preceding Mesolithic phase?
(A) The use of fire.
(B) The shift from a primarily hunter-gatherer economy to one based on food production (agriculture and animal husbandry).
(C) The practice of burying the dead.
(D) The creation of cave art.

237. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Numismatics, the study of coins, is a sub-branch of Epigraphy.
Statement II : Numismatics is a distinct field of study that provides unique insights into economic history, political boundaries, and metallurgy, separate from the study of inscriptions (Epigraphy).
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

238. The polity of the Harappan civilization is a subject of scholarly debate because:
(A) The evidence for political structure is abundant and contradictory.
(B) All evidence of government was deliberately destroyed by the Harappans themselves.
(C) Modern political biases prevent an objective assessment.
(D) The lack of deciphered script necessitates total reliance on material remains.

239. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The emergence of Mahajanapadas marked the formation of large territorial states in ancient India.
Reason (R) : This was facilitated by agricultural surplus from the Gangetic plains, iron technology, and socio-political consolidation.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

240. Which of the following correctly pairs a source type with its subject matter?
(A) Epigraphy - study of the societal structure described in the Vedas.
(B) Numismatics - study of ancient coins.
(C) Archaeology - analysis of foreign literary accounts.
(D) Literary Sources - dating of pottery shards.

241. Consider the following statements about the Vedic period:
1. The Rig Vedic period was characterized by a pastoral economy.
2. The Later Vedic period saw a shift towards a more settled, agricultural economy.
3. The Varna system became more rigid in the Later Vedic perio(D)
4. The Sabha and Samiti lost much of their

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influence in the Later Vedic period as the king's power grew.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

242. The term 'Chalcolithic' refers to a phase where:
(A) Both stone and copper/bronze tools were used.
(B) Only stone tools were used.
(C) Only copper/bronze tools were used.
(D) Only iron tools were used.

243. The primary value of foreign accounts for the historian is that they:
(A) Are always more accurate than indigenous accounts.
(B) Are completely free from religious or political bias.
(C) Provide a contemporary, albeit external, perspective on events and conditions.
(D) Offer detailed information on prehistoric periods.

244. The emergence of the Varna system as a hierarchical social structure is a key feature of the:
(A) Harappan society.
(B) Neolithic culture of South India.
(C) Mahajanapada republics.
(D) Vedic period, especially its later phase.

245. The decline of the Indus Civilization represents the end of:
(A) The use of stone tools.
(B) The Bronze Age in the Indian subcontinent.
(C) The subcontinent's first experiment with urbanism.
(D) All forms of trade in South Asia.

246. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Evidence)
P. Great Bath
Q. Ploughed Field
R. Dockyard
S. Polished Stone Axe
List II: (Site/Period)
1. Neolithic Period
2. Lothal
3. Mohenjo-daro
4. Kalibangan
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

247. The introduction and use of iron technology is most closely associated with the material culture of which period?
(A) Mature Harappan
(B) Neolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) Later Vedic and subsequent periods

248. The most significant feature of the Mahajanapada period is the:
(A) Formation of large, territorial states, both monarchical and republican.
(B) Flourishing of Harappan-style cities.
(C) Predominical of a hunter-gatherer economy.
(D) Complete absence of social stratification.

249. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The primary sources of information for the Harappan religion are its religious texts, which have been fully deciphered.
Statement II : Our understanding of Harappan religion is based on interpretations of archaeological evidence such as seals, figurines, and structures like the Great Bath.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

250. The emergence of heterodox sects like Buddhism, Jainism, and Ajivikas in the 6th century BCE was a phenomenon primarily centered in:
(A) The Gangetic plains.
(B) The Indus Valley region.
(C) The Deccan plateau.
(D) The Tamil country.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The reconstruction of ancient history relies heavily on the critical evaluation of archaeological sources, a process that involves several

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specialized methodologies. Exploration serves as the preliminary phase, identifying potential sites through surface surveys and geographical analysis. Following this, excavation is undertaken to systematically unearth material remains, providing tangible evidence of past human activities. The interpretation of these remains is further enhanced by epigraphy, the study of inscriptions, which can offer insights into political proclamations, donative records, and social customs. Similarly, numismatics, the analysis of coins, provides crucial data on economy, dynastic successions, and the extent of political influence, as the metal, script, and imagery on coins are direct indicators of state authority and trade networks. A fundamental challenge in archaeology, however, is the dating of sites and artefacts. Various scientific techniques are employed to establish chronologies, without which the contextualization of finds remains problematic. The scientific dating of archaeological sites is therefore indispensable for placing material culture, such as tools and settlement patterns, into a coherent historical framework and understanding the sequence of cultural developments over time.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the paragraph, which of the following best describes the relationship between exploration and excavation?
(A) They are interchangeable terms for digging up artefacts.
(B) Exploration is a preliminary step that precedes the systematic process of excavation.
(C) Excavation provides data for exploration, which then interprets the findings.
(D) Exploration focuses on inscriptions, while excavation focuses on material remains.

252. Numismatics is presented in the source as a valuable tool for understanding all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The religious beliefs of the common populace.
(B) The chronological order of ruling dynasties.
(C) The economic conditions of a period.
(D) The geographical reach of a state's power.

253. What does the source suggest is the primary purpose of dating archaeological sites?
(A) To determine the monetary value of the excavated artefacts.
(B) To prove the absolute authenticity of every discovered object.
(C) To create a coherent historical framework for contextualizing material culture.
(D) To focus exclusively on the inscriptions and coins found at a site.

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254. Based on the text, what can be inferred about epigraphy?
(A) It is solely concerned with the study of ancient languages.
(B) It is a sub-discipline of numismatics focusing on coin legends.
(C) It is a scientific dating technique used to determine the age of inscriptions.
(D) It provides direct textual evidence for aspects of past political and social life.

255. The paragraph emphasizes that the interpretation of archaeological findings is a process that is:
(A) Quick and straightforward, relying on a single methodology.
(B) Entirely dependent on the discovery of coins and inscriptions.
(C) Multi-faceted, involving exploration, excavation, and specialized analyses.
(D) Hampered by the unreliability of scientific dating methods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Literary sources for history are broadly categorized into indigenous and foreign accounts, each presenting unique challenges for historical reconstruction. Indigenous literature itself is diverse, comprising both primary and secondary works. A critical distinction is made between religious and secular literature. Religious texts, such as myths and legends, while rich in cultural information, are often difficult to use for precise historical events due to their allegorical nature and uncertain chronology. The problem of dating is a persistent issue across all forms of early indigenous literature, making it challenging to establish a firm timeline for the events and social conditions they describe. Secular literature, though

potentially more direct, is also subject to issues of authorship, patronage, and interpolation. In parallel, foreign accounts, such as those by Greek, Chinese, and Arabic travelers and chroniclers, offer an external perspective that can corroborate or challenge indigenous narratives. However, these accounts are not without their own biases, often colored by the author's cultural background, purpose of visit, and potential misunderstandings of local customs. Therefore, a judicious and comparative approach is necessary, weighing the evidence from all literary forms against each other and against archaeological data to construct a balanced historical narrative.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. According to the paragraph, what is a primary challenge when using religious literature like myths and legends for historical reconstruction?
(A) Their complete lack of cultural information.
(B) Their allegorical nature and uncertain dating.
(C) Their exclusive focus on economic data.
(D) Their availability only in foreign languages.

257. The source suggests that foreign accounts from Greek, Chinese, and Arabic writers are valuable because they:
(A) Are entirely objective and free from cultural bias.
(B) Focus exclusively on the political history of the regions they visited.
(C) Are always chronologically more accurate than indigenous literature.
(D) Provide an external viewpoint that can be compared with local sources.

258. What can be inferred from the paragraph about the use of literary sources in history?
(A) A critical and comparative analysis of multiple source types is essential.
(B) Archaeological evidence is irrelevant when literary sources are available.
(C) Indigenous primary sources are always more reliable than secondary ones.
(D) Secular literature is completely free from the problem of dating.

259. The "problem of dating" is mentioned in the source as a significant issue for:
(A) Only foreign accounts written by Greek and Chinese travelers.
(B) Only indigenous religious literature such as myths and legends.
(C) All forms of early indigenous literature, both religious and secular.
(D) Only secondary literary sources from the indigenous tradition.

260. The paragraph implies that the primary difference between religious and secular literature lies in their:
(A) Intended purpose and narrative style.
(B) Language of composition.
(C) Geographical origin.
(D) Degree of foreign influence.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Neolithic phase marks a fundamental transformation in human history, characterized by the shift from foraging to food production. This period witnessed the beginnings of agriculture and the domestication of animals, a development that anchored communities to specific territories and led to the establishment of settled villages. The distribution of Neolithic settlements was often dictated by geographical factors conducive to early farming, such as proximity to water sources and fertile land. Concurrently, tool-making technology evolved significantly. While retaining stone as a primary material, Neolithic tools were often polished and more specialized, designed for tasks like clearing land, tilling soil, and harvesting crops. The emergence of settled life and surplus production also fostered nascent patterns of exchange between different communities. This was not large-scale trade but rather a system of exchange for essential or desirable materials, such as specific types of stone for tool-making or ornamental shells, which were not available locally. These exchange networks, though limited, indicate the beginning of inter-regional contact and social complexity, laying the groundwork for the more intricate economic systems that would follow in subsequent phases. The pattern of exchange in the Neolithic phase was therefore an integral part of its socio-economic fabric, connecting disparate settlements.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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261. What does the source identify as the most fundamental change during the Neolithic phase?
(A) The exclusive use of polished stone tools.
(B) The development of long-distance maritime trade.
(C) The emergence of a powerful, centralized state.
(D) The transition from a nomadic lifestyle to food production.

262. According to the paragraph, the distribution of Neolithic settlements was primarily influenced by:
(A) The availability of metals for tool-making.
(B) Access to resources necessary for early agriculture.
(C) The presence of defensive geographical features.
(D) Proximity to established trade routes.

263. The paragraph suggests that Neolithic patterns of exchange were characterized by:
(A) A complex, monetized economy dealing in luxury goods.
(B) State-controlled trade managed by a merchant class.
(C) The exchange of essential and non-local materials between communities.
(D) A complete absence of any inter-regional contact.

264. It can be inferred from the source that Neolithic tools were distinct from earlier periods primarily because they were:
(A) Made exclusively from animal bones.
(B) Imported through extensive trade networks.
(C) Identical in every settlement, indicating a single culture.
(D) More specialized for agricultural tasks and often polished.

265. The source argues that the establishment of settled villages in the Neolithic period was a direct consequence of:
(A) The beginning of agriculture and animal domestication.
(B) The need for collective defense against invaders.
(C) The development of a written script and legal codes.
(D) The discovery and control of metal resources.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Chalcolithic phase, or Copper-Stone Age, represents a crucial transitional period between the Neolithic and the full-fledged Bronze Age. Characterized by the use of both copper and stone tools, this phase saw the proliferation of farming communities across various regions. The settlement distribution during this period expanded into new ecological zones, with villages often distinguished by their distinct pottery styles and architectural patterns. While subsistence continued to be based on agriculture and animal husbandry, the introduction of rudimentary metallurgy marked a significant technological advance. Copper, being more durable and malleable than stone, was used for making specialized tools, weapons, and ornaments, although stone implements remained in widespread use. The patterns of exchange also grew more complex compared to the Neolithic period. The need to procure copper ore, which was not universally available, stimulated inter-regional trade and contact. This led to the development of more defined exchange networks, linking ore-rich areas with agrarian settlements. This interaction not only facilitated the movement of goods, including finished copper items, pottery, and semi-precious stones, but also encouraged the diffusion of technologies and cultural practices, contributing to a greater degree of regional integration and social stratification than was seen previously.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is the defining technological characteristic of the Chalcolithic phase, according to the source?
(A) The complete replacement of stone tools with metal ones.
(B) The concurrent use of copper and stone for making tools.
(C) The invention of the iron plough for agriculture.
(D) The exclusive reliance on polished stone implements.

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267. The paragraph suggests that patterns of exchange in the Chalcolithic phase became more complex primarily due to:
(A) The invention of a monetary system.
(B) The necessity of procuring copper ore from specific regions.
(C) A decline in agricultural production.
(D) The establishment of a single, centralized political authority.

268. Which of the following can be inferred about the use of tools during the Chalcolithic phase?
(A) The use of stone implements continued to be widespread alongside copper ones.
(B) Stone tools became obsolete with the introduction of copper.
(C) Copper was used for all types of agricultural and domestic implements.
(D) All copper tools were imported from foreign civilizations.

269. According to the paragraph, the expansion of Chalcolithic settlements into new zones was accompanied by:
(A) The complete abandonment of agriculture.
(B) A universal decline in population.
(C) The emergence of distinct regional pottery and architecture.
(D) The unification of all communities under a single cultural identity.

270. The source indicates that a significant social consequence of the expanded exchange networks in the Chalcolithic phase was:
(A) The complete erosion of local cultural practices.
(B) The widespread abandonment of village settlements.
(C) A return to a nomadic, hunter-gatherer lifestyle.
(D) An increase in social stratification and regional integration.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Indus/Harappa Civilization, flourishing in the basins of the Indus River and its tributaries, represents the first urbanization in the Indian subcontinent. Its geographical extent was vast, stretching over large parts of modern-day Pakistan and western India, far exceeding the area of its contemporaries in Mesopotamia and Egypt. This civilization is renowned for its highly organized settlement pattern, most notably the division of major sites like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro into a fortified 'citadel' and a more extensive 'lower town'. This systematic urban planning suggests the presence of a sophisticated authority responsible for civic administration. The uniformity in brick size, weights and measures, and town layouts across distant sites further underscores a remarkable level of standardization and integration. The origin of this civilization is understood as an indigenous development, evolving from earlier regional cultures. Its major sites were strategically located to leverage trade routes and agricultural hinterlands. The settlement pattern, featuring a hierarchy of urban centers, smaller towns, and villages, reflects a complex system of economic and political organization that was unprecedented in the region, firmly establishing its status as a mature urban society.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What does the source identify as the most prominent feature of the Indus/Harappa Civilization's settlement pattern?
(A) The random and unplanned layout of its cities.
(B) The construction of all settlements exclusively on hilltops.
(C) The characteristic division of major sites into a citadel and a lower town.
(D) The absence of any smaller towns or villages surrounding the main cities.

272. The paragraph describes the Indus/Harappa Civilization as the "first urbanization in India" because of its:
(A) Limited geographical extent and small population.
(B) Highly organized urban planning and complex settlement hierarchy.
(C) Exclusive reliance on foreign models for city building.
(D) Complete lack of trade and economic organization.

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273. According to the source, the uniformity in brick size and weights and measures across the Harappan civilization suggests:
(A) A lack of technological innovation.
(B) The presence of multiple, competing political authorities.
(C) Widespread illiteracy among the population.
(D) A high degree of standardization and administrative integration.

274. What can be inferred about the origin of the Indus Civilization from the paragraph?
(A) It is considered an indigenous evolution from earlier regional cultures.
(B) It was established by colonists from Mesopotamia.
(C) It emerged suddenly without any prior cultural antecedents.
(D) Its origins remain completely unknown to archaeologists.

275. The geographical extent of the Harappan Civilization is described in the source as:
(A) Being smaller than that of contemporary Egypt.
(B) Confined to the immediate vicinity of the Indus River.
(C) Vast and larger than its contemporary civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia.
(D) Covering the entirety of the Indian subcontinent.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The societal fabric of the Indus/Harappa Civilization was intricate, as evidenced by its advanced craft specialization. Artisans produced a wide range of goods, including distinctive pottery, seals, beads, and metalwork, indicating a high level of technical skill and a stratified economy where not everyone was engaged in food production. The nature of the Harappan polity remains a subject of debate, but the uniformity of urban planning and material culture implies a strong, centralized or integrated administrative system. Religiously, evidence such as terracotta figurines of female deities and depictions of proto-Shiva-like figures on seals suggests a belief system centered on fertility worship and possibly a pantheon of gods, though the absence of monumental temples makes interpretation difficult. Society appears to have been structured, with different groups performing specialized functions. The eventual decline of this great civilization is attributed to a combination of factors rather than a single cause. Theories include climatic change, shifts in river courses, a decline in internal and external trade, and possible external pressures. The disruption of their robust trade networks, which connected them with Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf, would have severely impacted the urban economy, contributing significantly to the collapse of this complex social and political structure.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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276. According to the paragraph, what does the evidence of craft specialization in the Harappan civilization indicate?
(A) A complex society with economic stratification and specialized skills.
(B) A simple, egalitarian society with no division of labor.
(C) An economy where every individual was engaged in agriculture.
(D) A civilization that imported all its finished goods.

277. The paragraph suggests that the nature of the Harappan religion is inferred from:
(A) Large, monumental temple structures.
(B) Detailed religious texts and scriptures.
(C) The burial practices of the ruling elite.
(D) Artefacts like terracotta figurines and seal depictions.

278. Which of the following is presented in the source as a key reason for the decline of the Indus Civilization?
(A) The singular event of a massive foreign invasion.
(B) A combination of factors including climate change and trade disruption.
(C) The sudden abandonment of all religious practices.
(D) The exhaustion of all metal resources for craft production.

279. What can be inferred about the Harappan polity from the text?
(A) It was definitively a democratic republic.
(B) There was a complete absence of any

administrative authority.
(C) The uniformity in material culture points towards an effective administrative system.
(D) It was ruled by a succession of foreign kings from Mesopotamia.

280. The source highlights the importance of internal and external trade by linking its decline to:
(A) The rise of a new merchant class.
(B) The overproduction of agricultural goods.
(C) An increase in the population of artisans.
(D) The overall collapse of the urban economy and civilization.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Vedic period is a formative era in ancient Indian history, often understood through a corpus of texts known as the Vedas. A significant area of academic inquiry surrounding this period is the 'Aryan debate,' which concerns the origins and identity of the Vedic people. Early Vedic political institutions were primarily tribal in nature. The 'Rajan' or king was more of a tribal chieftain whose authority was checked by popular assemblies known as the 'Sabha' and 'Samiti.' The Sabha may have been a council of elders, while the Samiti was a larger assembly of the entire tribe, indicating a degree of popular participation in governance. The social institutions of this period were fluid. Society was organized along kinship lines, and while distinctions existed, the rigid hierarchical structure of the Varna system had not yet fully emerged. The primary identity was with the 'jana' or tribe. The state structure was not territorial in the modern sense; rather, it was a system of tribal chieftainships where the king's primary roles were to lead in battle and protect the tribe. Theories of the state during this era reflect this reality, emphasizing the king's military leadership and his relationship with the tribal assemblies, rather than absolute, monarchical power over a defined territory.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. According to the paragraph, the political institutions of the early Vedic period were characterized by:
(A) Tribal chieftainships with checks on the king's power.
(B) An absolute monarchy with unlimited power.
(C) A complex imperial bureaucracy.
(D) A system of democratically elected officials.

282. The source describes the 'Sabha' and 'Samiti' as:
(A) Military units led by the Rajan.
(B) Popular assemblies that limited the chieftain's authority.
(C) Religious texts outlining the duties of a king.
(D) The two highest castes in the early Vedic social structure.

283. What does the paragraph suggest about the social structure of the early Vedic period?
(A) It was a rigid and unchangeable Varna system.
(B) It was based on kinship, and the Varna system was not yet fully solidified.
(C) Society was strictly egalitarian with no distinctions.
(D) Social status was determined solely by wealth and land ownership.

284. The 'Aryan debate' mentioned in the text pertains to the:
(A) Origins and identity of the people associated with the Vedic culture.
(B) Economic policies of the Vedic people.
(C) The choice between monarchical and republican forms of government.
(D) The conflict between the Sabha and the Samiti.

285. It can be inferred from the source that the early Vedic 'state structure' was primarily:
(A) Centered on a fixed territory with well-defined borders.
(B) Focused on the administration of large urban centers.
(C) A system of tribal organization rather than a territorial state.
(D) An economic union focused on regulating trade.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The transition to the later Vedic period witnessed significant changes in political, social, and technological spheres. The state structure evolved from tribal assemblies to more established

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territorial kingdoms, with the king's power growing considerably. Theories of the state also changed, with elaborate coronation rituals like the 'Ashvamedha' sacrifice emphasizing the king's sovereignty and imperial ambitions. Socially, this era saw the emergence of a more rigid social stratification through the consolidation of the Varna system. The four Varnas—Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—were assigned distinct functions and statuses, creating a hierarchical society that was less fluid than in the early Vedic period. A pivotal development was the introduction and widespread use of iron technology. The use of iron axes facilitated the clearing of dense forests in the Gangetic plains, enabling agricultural expansion. Iron ploughshares improved agricultural efficiency, leading to a larger surplus, which in turn could support a more complex state apparatus and non-agricultural populations. Concurrently, in South India, a distinct cultural phenomenon known as Megaliths emerged. These were elaborate burials marked by large stones, containing grave goods such as iron tools and pottery, indicating the presence of a stratified, iron-using society in the peninsula, developing alongside the Gangetic valley cultures.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the source, what was a major political change in the later Vedic period compared to the early Vedic period?
(A) The decline of the king's power and the rise of tribal assemblies.
(B) The complete disappearance of the monarchy.
(C) The replacement of kingship with a republican system.
(D) The shift from tribal chieftainships to more powerful territorial kingdoms.

287. The paragraph identifies the introduction of iron technology as crucial for:
(A) The development of long-distance sea trade.
(B) The construction of stone monuments in North India.
(C) The expansion of agriculture into the forested Gangetic plains.
(D) The decline of the Varna system.

288. The source describes the Varna system in the later Vedic period as:
(A) A flexible system based on personal choice.
(B) A hierarchical and more rigid form of social stratification.
(C) A system with only two classes: rulers and the ruled.
(D) A social structure that was identical to that of the early Vedic period.

289. What can be inferred about the Megaliths of South India from the paragraph?
(A) They were temporary shelters for nomadic communities.
(B) They were exclusively a literary phenomenon with no archaeological evidence.
(C) They predate the use of iron technology in all parts of India.
(D) They indicate the presence of an iron-using, socially stratified culture in the South.

290. The paragraph suggests a direct link between improved agricultural surplus and:
(A) The ability to support a more complex state structure.
(B) The decline of the king's authority.
(C) The abandonment of iron technology.
(D) A return to a nomadic lifestyle.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The 6th century BCE was a period of profound political transformation in India, marked by the expansion of the state system and the rise of the Mahajanapadas. These were large territorial states that emerged from the earlier 'janapadas' and signified a move towards more complex, organized polities. The Mahajanapadas, traditionally numbered at sixteen, exhibited two primary forms of government: monarchical and republican. In monarchical states such as Magadha, Kosala, and Avanti, hereditary kingship was the norm, and power was centralized in the hands of the monarch. These kingdoms often pursued expansionist policies, leading to conflict and the eventual absorption of weaker states. In contrast, the republican states, or 'ganasanghas', such as those of the Vajjis and Mallas, were governed by an assembly of clan or lineage heads. In these oligarchic republics, decisions were made through council deliberations

rather than by a single hereditary ruler. While monarchies were more prevalent and ultimately more successful in terms of territorial expansion, the existence of republican states demonstrates a significant diversity in political thought and organization during this era of state formation. The competition and interaction between these different state types were central features of the political landscape of the time.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What is the primary distinction made in the paragraph between monarchical and republican Mahajanapadas?
(A) Monarchies were agricultural, while republics were pastoral.
(B) Monarchies used iron tools, while republics used only stone tools.
(C) Monarchies had hereditary rulers, while republics were governed by assemblies.
(D) Monarchies were located in the south, while republics were in the north.

292. The source indicates that the rise of the Mahajanapadas represents a shift towards:
(A) More complex and organized territorial states.
(B) Smaller, tribal political units.
(C) A single, unified empire across India.
(D) The complete abandonment of political structures.

293. According to the paragraph, states like Magadha and Kosala are examples of:
(A) Republican states governed by a council.
(B) Small tribal chieftainships.
(C) States that lacked any form of government.
(D) Monarchical states with hereditary kings.

294. What can be inferred about the political environment during the era of the Mahajanapadas?
(A) It was a peaceful period with no interstate conflict.
(B) It was characterized by competition and expansionist policies, especially by monarchies.
(C) All states willingly joined a single, cooperative federation.
(D) Republicanism was the only accepted form of governance.

295. The term 'ganasanghas' is used in the paragraph to refer to:
(A) The hereditary monarchies of the period.
(B) The council of ministers in a monarchical state.
(C) The republican or oligarchic states.
(D) The earliest tribal assemblies of the Vedic period.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The economic and social developments of the 6th century BCE culminated in a phenomenon often termed the 'Second Urbanization' in India. This phase was characterized by the re-emergence of towns and cities in the Gangetic plain, a process fueled by a significant agricultural surplus made possible by the widespread use of iron technology and advancements in farming techniques. This surplus could sustain a growing population of non-agricultural specialists, such as artisans, merchants, and administrators, who congregated in new urban centers. These cities became hubs of craft production and trade, facilitated by the introduction of metallic coinage. Socially, the increasing complexity and the rigidification of the Brahmanical Varna system created tensions. It was in this dynamic socio-economic milieu that heterodox sects emerged, offering alternative spiritual paths. Jainism, Buddhism, and the philosophy of the Ajivikas, among others, challenged the authority of the Vedas and the dominance of Brahmanical rituals. They often appealed to the Kshatriya and Vaishya varnas, who were gaining in economic power but were subordinate to the Brahmins in the ritual hierarchy. These new religious and philosophical movements were thus not isolated events but were deeply intertwined with the social and economic transformations that defined the era of the Second Urbanization.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The source defines the 'Second Urbanization' as the:
(A) First emergence of cities in the Indus Valley.
(B) Growth of cities exclusively in South India.
(C) Period when the entire population moved to

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urban areas.
(D) Re-emergence of towns and cities, particularly in the Gangetic plain.

297. According to the paragraph, a key economic factor that enabled the Second Urbanization was:
(A) A significant agricultural surplus supporting non-farmers.
(B) A decline in agricultural production.
(C) The abandonment of iron technology.
(D) The prohibition of all forms of trade.

298. The emergence of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism is presented in the source as being:
(A) Completely unrelated to the social and economic changes of the time.
(B) Intertwined with the social tensions created by the rigid Varna system.
(C) A movement to reinforce the authority of the Vedas.
(D) Primarily a political movement to overthrow monarchies.

299. What can be inferred about the role of the new urban centers?
(A) They were solely religious centers with no economic activity.
(B) They were hubs for trade, craft production, and administration.
(C) They were exclusively populated by agricultural laborers.
(D) They existed in complete isolation from the surrounding rural areas.

300. The paragraph suggests that the new religious movements often found support among which social groups?
(A) Kshatriyas and Vaishyas who had economic power but lower ritual status than Brahmins.
(B) Only the Brahmins who led the rituals.
(C) The Shudras who were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
(D) Foreign merchants who did not belong to the Varna system.

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ANSWERS

1. (B) The analytical study of inscriptions found on diverse ancient materials.
Epigraphy constitutes the systematic study of inscriptions engraved on hard surfaces such as stone, metal, or clay. These written records serve as primary historical evidence, offering direct insights into royal edicts, land grants, and societal norms of ancient civilizations. By deciphering diverse scripts and languages, researchers reconstruct political chronologies and administrative structures. This discipline remains essential for validating literary accounts through tangible, contemporary archaeological data.

2. (A) Sabha
The Sabha functioned as an exclusive assembly of elders or elite members within the tribal political structure of the Early Vedic period. It played a significant role in advising the chieftain and exercising judicial powers over communal disputes. Unlike larger popular gatherings, this council represented the influential sections of society. Its presence highlights the collective nature of governance and the limits placed upon individual royal authority.

3. (C) They were primarily made of copper and bronze.
Neolithic technology is primarily defined by the use of polished and ground stone tools designed for specialized agricultural tasks and permanent settlement. While Paleolithic implements were roughly flaked, Neolithic celts and axes featured smooth surfaces for increased efficiency in woodcutting and tilling. These stone-based developments occurred before the widespread adoption of metallurgy. Identifying these distinct lithic characteristics helps archaeologists track the transition from hunting to food production.

4. (D) The Indus/Harappa Civilization.
The Indus or Harappa Civilization represents the initial phase of urban development within the Indian subcontinent. Characterized by sophisticated town planning, standardized brick dimensions, and advanced drainage systems, these early cities established a complex societal framework. Economic stability was maintained through extensive internal and external trade networks. This era of maturity demonstrates a highly organized political structure that supported large-scale population centers and diverse specialized crafts.

5. (A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
Historical reconstruction relies on diverse sources including epigraphic records, numismatic evidence, and literary accounts. Inscriptions like Ashokan edicts provide direct governmental communication, while ancient punch-marked coins offer data on economic exchange and metallurgy. Foreign travelogues, such as those by Xuanzang, provide external perspectives on cultural practices. Meanwhile, indigenous works like the Puranas contain genealogies and myths vital for understanding the social fabric and religious traditions.

6. (B) Their ritualistic nature complicates the extraction of objective data.
Utilizing religious literature for historical analysis presents challenges due to the primary focus on rituals, deities, and spiritual philosophies rather than objective record-keeping. The Vedas consist largely of hymns and sacrificial instructions intended for liturgical purposes. Consequently, extracting specific chronological details or social realities requires careful critical interpretation. This inherent religious bias often masks the underlying political and economic developments occurring during the period of their composition.

7. (D) To survey and identify potential sites or areas of historical interest.
Exploration serves as the preliminary phase of archaeological research, focusing on the systematic survey of landscapes to identify potential historical sites. By examining surface features and collecting scattered artifacts, researchers determine areas suitable for future excavation. This non-destructive process provides crucial data regarding settlement distribution and regional history. Effective exploration ensures

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that resources are allocated efficiently while expanding the known map of ancient human activity across diverse terrains.

8. (A) The 6th century BCE.
The sixth century BCE witnessed a significant intellectual ferment in the Gangetic valley, leading to the rise of various heterodox movements. These sects emerged as a critical response to the ritualistic complexity and social hierarchies of the existing Brahmanical order. Buddhism and Jainism offered alternative spiritual paths emphasizing ethical conduct and individual effort. This transformative period coincided with the growth of cities and the expansion of trade networks.

9. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The decline of the Harappan civilization is characterized as a gradual de-urbanization process rather than a sudden catastrophic event. Archaeological evidence indicates that multiple environmental factors, including shifting river courses and climatic changes, weakened the urban infrastructure. Simultaneously, the disruption of long-distance trade networks contributed to societal collapse. This multi-causal explanation has largely replaced older theories focused solely on external invasions or single military conflicts between different groups.

10. (A) It was a rigid, hereditary four-fold social stratification.
During the Later Vedic period, social organization transitioned into a rigid four-fold stratification known as the Varna system. This structure categorized the population into Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras based on hereditary principles rather than professional merit. Birth became the primary determinant of social status, significantly limiting mobility between classes. This institutionalized hierarchy laid the foundation for complex social interactions and duties that defined the broader Indian sociological landscape.

11. (B) 2 and 3 only
Numismatics provides vital information for reconstructing the past, specifically regarding economic history and dynastic successions. The distribution and material composition of ancient coins reveal established trade routes and the financial health of various states. Furthermore, titles and names inscribed on coinage allow historians to establish precise chronological frameworks for ruling lineages. This material evidence serves as a reliable objective counterpoint to literary narratives, confirming the geographical extent and duration of kingdoms.

12. (B) Large territorial states that emerged around the 6th century BCE.
The term Mahajanapadas refers to the sixteen powerful territorial states that dominated Northern India during the sixth century BCE. This period marked the transition from tribal chiefdoms to organized monarchical and republican systems with established capitals. These states competed for regional supremacy, leading to significant political consolidation and military development. Their emergence signifies a crucial phase of socio-political evolution, characterized by increased urbanization, the use of iron technology, and agricultural expansion.

13. (C) A modern scholarly article on Vedic society.
Primary literary sources for ancient history consist of texts composed during or near the time of the events they describe. Works like the Arthashastra, the Rigveda, and contemporary travelogues like the Indica offer direct insights into the socio-political environment of their respective eras. Conversely, modern scholarly articles are considered secondary sources because they provide interpretation and analysis of pre-existing data. Understanding this distinction is fundamental for assessing the reliability and perspective of historical information.

14. (A) a, b, and d
Archaeological evidence suggests that Harappan society was stratified, as demonstrated by the clear distinction between the citadel and residential areas. The high degree of uniformity in artifacts like bricks and pottery across vast regions indicates a centralized political authority capable of implementing standards. While the exact nature of the ruling class remains debated, the lack of evidence for large-scale warfare distinguishes it from contemporary civilizations. These features highlight a sophisticated and organized urban administrative system.

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15. (A) It enabled forest clearance for expanded agricultural production.
The introduction of iron technology during the Later Vedic period significantly transformed the economic landscape of Northern India. Iron tools provided the necessary strength to clear the dense forests of the Gangetic plains, facilitating a massive expansion of cultivated land. This increase in agricultural output supported a growing population and the development of larger territorial states. Consequently, iron served as a catalyst for the transition from a pastoral economy to a settled agrarian society.

16. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Archaeology employs distinct excavation methods to extract diverse types of historical information. Vertical excavation involves digging deep into specific areas to reveal successive cultural layers, allowing researchers to establish a chronological sequence over long periods. In contrast, horizontal excavation focuses on exposing a larger area within a single stratum to understand the spatial arrangement of buildings and communal spaces. Both techniques are complementary, providing a comprehensive view of both the timeline and layout of ancient settlements.

17. (B) The origin and migration of the people associated with Vedic culture.
The Aryan debates center on the complex question of the origins and movement of the Indo-Aryan speaking peoples. Scholars examine linguistic, archaeological, and genetic evidence to determine whether these groups were indigenous to the Indian subcontinent or migrated from Central Asia. This discussion is pivotal for understanding the cultural transition between the Harappan civilization and the Vedic period. The debate remains active as new discoveries continue to refine our knowledge of early human migrations.

18. (A) 1, 3, 2, 4
Foreign observers arrived in India at different historical junctures, each leaving valuable records of their observations. Megasthenes visited during the Mauryan period in the fourth century BCE, followed by the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien in the early fifth century CE. Xuanzang traveled during the seventh century CE during Harsha's reign, while Al-Biruni arrived in the eleventh century CE. Establishing this chronological sequence is essential for tracking changes in Indian society, religion, and administration through foreign perspectives.

19. (C) The use of both copper/bronze and stone tools.
The Chalcolithic phase marks a transitional period in human history characterized by the simultaneous use of stone and metal technology. While stone tools remained common for daily tasks, the introduction of copper and bronze allowed for more specialized and durable implements. This stage typically involves settled agricultural communities, painted pottery traditions, and a gradual move toward more complex social structures. Identifying these dual material characteristics helps archaeologists distinguish these cultures from purely Neolithic or later Iron Age societies.

20. (D) Lothal
Lothal, located in modern-day Gujarat, served as a vital maritime hub for the Indus Civilization. The site is uniquely characterized by a large artificial basin identified as a dockyard, which facilitated trade with contemporary civilizations in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia. This feature demonstrates advanced knowledge of tides and hydraulics among Harappan engineers. The presence of specialized workshops for bead-making further confirms Lothal's role as a major industrial and commercial center within the ancient trade network.

21. (C) 1, 3 and 4
Megaliths are monumental stone structures found across South India, primarily dating to the Iron Age. These formations often served as elaborate burial sites or commemorative monuments for the deceased, frequently containing grave goods such as iron implements and pottery. Their appearance marks a significant cultural shift in the region, coinciding with the widespread adoption of iron technology and the development of complex mortuary rituals. These structures offer crucial insights into the social organization and technological progress of early southern communities.

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22. (B) The reappearance of cities and towns after the decline of the Harappan civilization.
The second urbanization refers to the resurgence of urban centers in the Gangetic valley around the sixth century BCE, following a long period of rural life. This phase was driven by agricultural surpluses generated through iron tools and the expansion of trade. New cities emerged as political capitals for the Mahajanapadas and hubs for artisanal production. This development signifies a significant social and economic shift, marking the return of a sophisticated urban lifestyle to the Indian subcontinent.

23. (D) Makkhali Gosala
Makkhali Gosala was the founder of the Ajivika sect, an influential heterodox movement contemporary with early Buddhism and Jainism. The philosophy of this group was centered on the doctrine of absolute determinism, suggesting that all events and human destinies are preordained by cosmic forces. This belief system challenged the concepts of free will and individual karma prevalent in other traditions. The Ajivikas maintained a significant presence in ancient India for several centuries, receiving patronage from various ruling dynasties.

24. (A) Phrenology
Scientific dating methods are essential for establishing the chronological context of archaeological sites and artifacts. Techniques like radiocarbon dating measure the decay of isotopes in organic remains, while dendrochronology uses tree-ring patterns to determine age. Stratigraphy analyzes the relative position of soil layers to establish a timeline of occupation. Conversely, phrenology is a discredited theory involving the study of skull shapes and is not utilized for determining the age or history of ancient cultural remains.

25. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The political structure of the Rig Vedic period was fundamentally tribal, with the Rajan or chieftain serving as the leader. His authority was not absolute but was moderated by communal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti, which provided counsel and support. These institutions represented the collective will of the tribe, ensuring that governance remained participative and checked by customary norms. This relationship underscores the democratic elements present in early Vedic society before the rise of centralized monarchies.

26. (A) Dholavira - Absence of water management systems
Dholavira is renowned among Harappan sites for its exceptionally sophisticated water management systems, featuring a series of massive reservoirs and stone-cut channels. These structures were designed to collect and store rainwater in an arid environment, demonstrating advanced engineering skills. Other sites also possess unique features, such as the Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro and the dockyard at Lothal. Correctly identifying these specific archaeological remains is crucial for understanding the environmental adaptations and technological achievements of the Indus Civilization.

27. (D) Neolithic
The Neolithic period is defined by a revolutionary shift from a nomadic hunter-gatherer existence to a settled lifestyle based on food production. This transition involved the deliberate cultivation of crops and the domestication of livestock, leading to the establishment of permanent village settlements. The development of polished stone tools and pottery for storage supported this new economic model. This fundamental change in human subsistence laid the groundwork for population growth, labor specialization, and the eventually emergence of complex societies.

28. (B) The oral tradition of transmission, which makes fixing a precise date for the original composition difficult.
Dating indigenous Indian literature is complicated by the long history of oral transmission before these works were committed to writing. Texts like the Vedas were preserved with remarkable accuracy through specialized mnemonic techniques for centuries. However, this fluid period makes it challenging for modern historians to determine the exact moment of their original composition. Furthermore, many texts underwent subsequent revisions and additions over generations, resulting in a multilayered chronological structure that requires careful linguistic and cultural analysis to decipher.

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29. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The socio-political landscape of ancient India featured diverse organizational forms, including both monarchical and republican states. Magadha emerged as a dominant monarchy, while the Vajji confederacy represented a republican system governed by a council of chiefs. Simultaneously, new religious movements like Buddhism challenged traditional norms, while the Varna system institutionalized social stratification. Understanding these different concepts and their examples is essential for reconstructing the complex political, social, and intellectual history of the sixth century BCE.

30. (D) A massive, single-event military invasion by Aryans.
Modern archaeological research favors a multi-causal explanation for the decline of the Indus Civilization, emphasizing gradual environmental and economic shifts. Factors such as ecological degradation, river course changes, and the disruption of trade networks are widely cited as primary contributors to de-urbanization. In contrast, the theory of a single, catastrophic military invasion by Aryans is now largely discounted due to the lack of supportive evidence. This shift highlights a more nuanced understanding of how complex ancient societies eventually transformed.

31. (B) a, c, and d
Foreign accounts constitute a vital category of historical sources, providing external perspectives on Indian society, politics, and culture. These include records left by Greek writers like Megasthenes, Chinese pilgrims such as Xuanzang, and later Arabic scholars like Al-Biruni. These observers often recorded details that indigenous texts omitted, particularly regarding administrative practices and contemporary social conditions. While these accounts may contain biases or misunderstandings, they offer crucial chronological data and comparative viewpoints necessary for a comprehensive reconstruction of the past.

32. (B) Specific settlements or localized areas focused on the production of specialized goods.
Craft specialization in the Harappan civilization is evidenced by the concentration of specific artisanal activities within particular settlements or urban quarters. Sites like Chanhudaro and Lothal were major centers for bead-making, shell-working, and metallurgy, indicating a high degree of economic organization. This specialization suggests the existence of professional guilds or hereditary craftsmen who produced goods for both local consumption and long-distance trade. Such organized production required a steady supply of raw materials and sophisticated administrative control.

33. (B) The Upanishads
The Upanishads represent the culmination of Vedic thought, shifting focus from external rituals and sacrifices to internal philosophical speculation. These texts explore profound questions regarding the nature of the ultimate reality, the individual soul, and the cycle of rebirth. By emphasizing knowledge and meditation over ritual action, the Upanishads laid the intellectual foundation for various schools of Indian philosophy. They reflect the evolving spiritual landscape of the Later Vedic period, seeking deeper metaphysical truths behind existence.

34. (A) Governance by an assembly or a council of chiefs.
Republican states, known as Gana-Sanghas, existed alongside monarchies during the Mahajanapada period. These polities were characterized by collective leadership, where power was exercised by an assembly of clan leaders or heads of families. Decisions were often reached through discussion and consensus within these councils. This political system flourished primarily in the foothills of the Himalayas and parts of Bihar. The existence of these republics demonstrates the diversity of political organization and participation present in ancient Indian society.

35. (C) Dynamics of human-environment interaction and regional resource utilization.
Archaeologists study the distribution of Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlements to understand how early human communities interacted with their local environments. The location of these sites often reveals preferences for specific ecological zones, such as fertile river valleys or areas with accessible stone and metal resources. Analysis of tool types and settlement patterns provides

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evidence of regional adaptations and the development of trade networks. This research offers insights into the sustainable practices and resource management strategies employed by prehistoric societies.

36. (D) Settlements were typically divided into a lower town and a raised citadel.
A defining feature of Harappan urban planning is the bipartite division of settlements into a fortified citadel and a more extensive lower town. The citadel, often built on a raised platform, typically housed significant public buildings, administrative offices, and ritual structures. The lower town contained the residential quarters and workshops of the common populace. This standardized layout, observed across various sites, reflects a highly organized society with clear social stratification and a sophisticated approach to urban design and defense.

37. (C) Rise of Neolithic-Chalcolithic food production.
The rise of food production during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases marks the earliest major transition in the economic history of the subcontinent. This development preceded the first urbanization seen in the Harappan civilization and the later introduction of iron technology. By establishing settled agriculture and animal husbandry, early communities created the foundation for population growth and social complexity. This chronological sequence is fundamental for understanding the long-term progression from simple subsistence strategies to organized urban and state systems.

38. (B) Contemporary or near-contemporary to the events they describe.
Primary literary sources are distinguished by their temporal proximity to the historical events or periods they record. These include original texts, eyewitness accounts, and contemporary inscriptions that offer direct evidence of the past. In contrast, secondary sources are later interpretations or analyses of these original materials. Utilizing primary sources allows historians to access the perspectives and language of the people who lived during those times, providing a more authentic basis for reconstructing social, political, and cultural history.

39. (D) The systematic movement and trade of raw materials and finished artisanal goods.
Patterns of exchange during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods refer to the networks through which communities traded resources and crafted items. Archaeological evidence, such as the presence of non-local stones or metals at specific sites, demonstrates the existence of long-distance trade routes. This exchange was not limited to material goods but also facilitated the spread of technological ideas and cultural practices. Analyzing these patterns helps researchers understand the economic interdependencies and social connections that linked diverse regional groups.

40. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Aryan debates involve competing theories regarding the origins of the Indo-Aryan speaking groups and their arrival in India. While linguistic evidence links Sanskrit to the broader Indo-European family, researchers continue to debate whether these groups were indigenous or migrated from Central Asia. These discussions utilize a wide range of data, including archaeological finds and genetic studies. Despite extensive research, the debate remains unresolved, with multiple hypotheses coexisting as scholars seek a more definitive understanding of early subcontinental cultural history.

41. (C) Construction of large, elaborate temples for congregational worship.
Harappan religious life is inferred from material remains such as seals, figurines, and ritual structures, which suggest the worship of a mother goddess and a proto-Shiva figure. Evidence also indicates the veneration of animals and trees, as well as the possible ritual use of water. However, there is no archaeological proof for the existence of large, dedicated temples for public congregational worship during this period. This indicates that religious practices were likely more individualized or focused on specific household or community shrines.

42. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The sixth century BCE was a transformative era in the Gangetic valley, characterized by significant economic growth and social change. The widespread adoption of iron technology

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enabled more efficient farming and the clearing of dense forests, leading to a substantial agricultural surplus. This surplus supported the rise of urban centers, the expansion of trade, and the emergence of new social classes, including merchants and artisans. These economic foundations were essential for the development of the powerful territorial states known as Mahajanapadas.

43. (D) a tribal polity led by a chieftain with limited authority.
During the Rig Vedic period, political organization was centered on the tribe, known as the Jana. The leader, or Rajan, functioned as a chieftain whose authority was primarily military and moderated by tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti. Governance was fundamentally participatory, and the Rajan relied on the consent and support of his tribesmen. This structure reflects a semi-nomadic society where territorial boundaries were not yet fixed and political power was closely tied to kinship and communal consensus.

44. (B) Reveal the shared social values and worldviews of an ancient society.
Myths and legends serve as valuable historical sources by providing insights into the cultural beliefs, social norms, and collective consciousness of ancient communities. While they may not offer factual accuracy regarding specific events, they reflect how societies understood their origins, ethics, and relationship with the divine. By analyzing these narratives, historians can reconstruct the worldviews and values that shaped early human behavior. These stories often preserve cultural memory and provide a narrative framework for understanding the identity of diverse historical groups.

45. (C) Prehistoric Archaeology
Prehistoric archaeology focuses on the study of human societies before the advent of written records, relying entirely on material remains. This field is essential for investigating the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases, where researchers analyze tool technology, settlement patterns, and dietary evidence to reconstruct early lifeways. By examining artifacts like polished stone axes and painted pottery, archaeologists can track the development of agriculture and the transition to metal use. This discipline provides the primary framework for understanding the foundational stages of human civilization.

46. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Ancient Indian literature is categorized into secular and religious works, though both provide historical insights. Secular texts like the Arthashastra focus on statecraft, law, and economics, offering a pragmatic view of ancient governance. Religious literature, such as the Puranas, primarily deals with myths and rituals but also contains important genealogical lists and information on social structures. These religious works are not exclusively spiritual and often preserve historical traditions, albeit in a stylized form. Both types of literature are essential for a comprehensive historical reconstruction.

47. (C) a, c, and e
The Indus Civilization was a vast urban culture that surpassed its contemporaries in Egypt and Mesopotamia in geographical extent. Major sites such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, and Dholavira reveal highly sophisticated town planning and extensive trade networks. Evidence of external commerce with Mesopotamia is confirmed by the discovery of Harappan seals in the region. Although its pictographic script remains undeciphered, the archaeological record demonstrates a complex society with advanced administrative control and organized economic activities spanning a wide territory in South Asia.

48. (B) Later Vedic period
Social stratification in ancient India became increasingly rigid and hereditary during the Later Vedic period with the consolidation of the Varna system. Society was strictly divided into four classes—Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—based on birth rather than profession. This period also saw the emergence of specific duties and social restrictions associated with each Varna. This shift from the more flexible social structure of the Early Vedic era established a long-lasting hierarchical framework that significantly influenced the social and cultural history of the subcontinent.

49. (B) A direct reaction against the dominance of rituals and the priestly class.
The rise of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism was a response to the growing ritualistic

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complexity and social exclusivity of Brahmanical orthodoxy. These movements rejected the absolute authority of the Vedas and questioned the necessity of elaborate animal sacrifices and the dominance of the priestly class. By emphasizing individual ethical conduct and spiritual equality, they appealed to those marginalized by the rigid Varna system. This intellectual and social ferment reflected a broader search for more inclusive and personally meaningful spiritual paths.

50. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Understanding ancient history requires the integration of diverse concepts such as social stratification, political structures, and archaeological phases. The Varna system institutionalized social hierarchy, while the Mahajanapadas represented the rise of large territorial states. The Chalcolithic phase marks the transition to metal use alongside stone, and epigraphy provides direct historical data through the study of inscriptions. Collectively, these elements form the foundational framework for analyzing the development of early Indian civilization and its various socio-political and technological transitions.

51. (C) The deliberate cultivation of plants and domestication of animals.
The fundamental shift from food gathering to food production defines the Neolithic phase as a revolutionary period in human history. This change involved the active management of nature through agriculture and livestock herding, rather than relying on wild resources. The ability to produce a predictable food supply allowed for the establishment of permanent village settlements and a significant increase in population. This transition provided the economic surplus necessary for the development of specialized labor and the eventual emergence of more complex social organizations.

52. (D) The state of Buddhism and Buddhist sites in India.
Chinese travelogues, particularly those of Fa-Hien and Xuanzang, are invaluable for understanding the history of Buddhism in India. These pilgrims visited major monasteries, recorded details of Buddhist doctrines, and described the condition of holy sites across the subcontinent. Their accounts provide a unique chronological perspective on the religion's growth and decline, as well as observations on contemporary social and political life. These records complement indigenous literary and archaeological sources, offering a detailed and often eyewitness view of ancient Indian religious geography.

53. (C) The divine origin and contractual nature of kingship.
Political thought in the Later Vedic and post-Vedic periods explored the origins and legitimacy of royal authority. Theories emerged regarding the divine nature of kingship, where rulers were often seen as representatives of cosmic order. Simultaneously, concepts of a social contract were discussed, suggesting that the king's power was rooted in his duty to protect the people and maintain justice. These ideas reflect the transition from tribal chiefdoms to more centralized monarchies, seeking to justify and define the limits of increasing royal power.

54. (B) Tamil Nadu
The geographical extent of the Harappan civilization was primarily concentrated in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. Major settlements were located in modern-day Pakistan and Indian states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana. While the culture maintained trade contacts over vast distances, its urban footprint did not extend into the southern regions of the peninsula, such as Tamil Nadu. Mapping the boundaries of this civilization helps archaeologists understand its regional focus and the environmental factors that shaped its development and eventual decline.

55. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Numismatics serves as an essential source for economic history, offering objective data on trade, metallurgy, and prosperity. The material composition, purity, and geographical spread of ancient coins provide direct evidence of economic health and commercial networks that literary texts often omit. By analyzing these physical remains, historians can reconstruct currency systems, identify territorial boundaries, and understand the technological level of various states. Consequently, coinage acts as a reliable indicator of the economic vitality and administrative reach of ancient Indian dynasties.

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56. (A) Later Vedic Period
The transition from a semi-nomadic, pastoral lifestyle to a settled agrarian society is a defining characteristic of the Later Vedic period. This shift was facilitated by the expansion into the fertile Gangetic plains and the adoption of iron technology for agricultural use. As communities became more tied to the land, territorial identity superseded tribal affiliation, leading to the rise of Janapadas. This economic change also supported a more complex social hierarchy and the development of more stable political institutions, marking a significant evolution in early Indian history.

57. (A) 1 and 2 only
Excavation is a scientific process guided by the principles of stratigraphy and superposition. Stratigraphy involves the careful study of soil layers, while the principle of superposition assumes that lower layers are generally older than those above them. This systematic approach allows archaeologists to establish a relative chronological sequence for the artifacts and structures discovered. Contrary to popular myths, the primary goal of excavation is not the discovery of treasure but the reconstruction of past lifeways and the accurate dating of cultural transformations.

58. (A) Vajji
The Vajji confederacy, with its capital at Vaishali, was one of the prominent republican states, or Gana-Sanghas, in the sixth century BCE. Unlike neighboring monarchies like Magadha and Kosala, power was shared among a council of representatives from various clans. This collective governance system involved discussion and joint decision-making, reflecting a different political tradition from hereditary rule. The presence of such republics alongside monarchies highlights the diverse political landscape of the Mahajanapada period, where different models of authority and participation coexisted and competed.

59. (D) The presence of non-local materials far from their original source.
Archaeological evidence of non-local materials at specific sites provides primary data for reconstructing patterns of exchange during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases. The discovery of semi-precious stones, specific types of pottery, or metals far from their natural source points to established trade networks. These findings indicate that early communities were not isolated but engaged in systematic trade to acquire valued resources. Analyzing the movement of these materials helps researchers understand regional interconnections, economic interdependency, and the spread of technologies across prehistoric landscapes.

60. (B) 2, 1, 4, 3
Historical sources appear at different stages of human development, reflecting changing technologies and social needs. Harappan seals represent some of the earliest administrative and commercial records, followed by the genealogical traditions eventually preserved in Puranic lists. The emergence of punch-marked coins in the sixth century BCE marked a significant shift toward a money economy, while the Ashokan edicts of the third century BCE represent the first widespread use of official public inscriptions. Establishing this sequence is vital for tracking the evolution of communication and statecraft.

61. (C) Exchange of goods between different cities and regions within the Harappan cultural zone.
Internal trade within the Indus Civilization refers to the systematic movement and exchange of resources and artisanal products between various urban centers and rural settlements. This domestic network was essential for distributing raw materials, such as specific stones or metals, to specialized manufacturing hubs. The high degree of uniformity in weights and measures across the civilization indicates a highly integrated and regulated internal market. Such internal commerce supported the economic stability of the civilization and fostered a shared material culture among diverse regional communities.

62. (D) The political and economic landscape of the Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods.
The adoption of iron technology profoundly altered the trajectory of Indian history during the Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods. Stronger iron tools allowed for the clearance of dense forests and the deep plowing of heavy soils in the Gangetic plains, leading to increased agricultural productivity and surplus. This economic change facilitated population growth, the rise

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of cities, and the formation of large territorial states. Furthermore, iron weapons enhanced military capabilities, contributing to the political consolidation and competition that defined this transformative era.

63. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Key developments distinguish the different phases of ancient Indian history, marking significant social and technological transitions. The Neolithic phase saw the first appearance of food production through agriculture and domestication. This was followed by the first urbanization of the Harappan civilization, and later, the introduction of iron technology during the Later Vedic period. These changes eventually culminated in the second urbanization associated with the rise of the Mahajanapadas. Tracking these milestones is essential for understanding the long-term evolution of subcontinental society and economy.

64. (B) They may contain cultural misunderstandings or specific authorial biases.
While foreign accounts provide valuable external perspectives, they must be used with caution due to inherent limitations. Authors like Megasthenes or Xuanzang often viewed Indian society through their own cultural lenses, which could lead to misunderstandings of local customs and social structures. Additionally, these observers might have been influenced by their specific purposes for writing or the expectations of their audiences. Recognizing these biases and cross-referencing these accounts with indigenous literary and archaeological evidence is crucial for ensuring a balanced and accurate historical reconstruction.

65. (B) The Vedic literature, including the Samhitas, Brahmanas, and Sutras.
Reconstructing the social institutions of the Vedic period relies primarily on the extensive body of Vedic literature. These texts provide detailed information on tribal organization, family structures, and the evolving social hierarchy. The Samhitas offer insights into religious beliefs and rituals, while the Brahmanas and Sutras describe social norms, duties, and legal principles. Together, they record the transition from a semi-nomadic pastoral society to a more complex agrarian system. This literary corpus remains the most comprehensive source for understanding the values and social fabric of early Vedic people.

66. (D) a, b, c, d, and e
The Indus Civilization is distinguished by several characteristic features that reflect its sophisticated urban nature. These include systematic town planning on a grid pattern, the extensive use of burnt bricks, and an undeciphered pictographic script. Evidence also points to external trade contacts with Mesopotamia and a highly developed economy based on agriculture and crafts. Notably, the civilization thrived before the introduction of iron technology, relying instead on bronze and stone tools. Collectively, these features define the unique and advanced cultural identity of the subcontinent's first urbanization.

67. (C) The nature of political authority, whether collective or hereditary.
The primary distinction between monarchical and republican states in the Mahajanapada period was the structure of political leadership. Monarchies were ruled by a single, hereditary king whose authority was central and often absolute. In contrast, republican states, or Gana-Sanghas, were governed by a council or assembly of chiefs where power was shared and decisions were made through collective deliberation. This difference reflects diverse political traditions and methods of governance, indicating that ancient Indian society experimented with various forms of authority and communal representation simultaneously.

68. (D) Their primary purpose was religious and ritualistic, not historical documentation.
Indigenous religious literature like the Vedas and Puranas must be approached critically because their authors did not intend to write formal history. These texts were primarily composed for ritual, spiritual, and moral purposes, often blending factual elements with myth and symbolism. While they contain valuable information about social norms and lineages, this data is often embedded within religious narratives that prioritize metaphysical concerns over chronological accuracy. Historians must therefore use specialized analytical techniques to extract reliable historical information from these multifaceted and primarily spiritual works.

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69. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases mark crucial technological and social stages in human development. The Neolithic period is defined by the revolutionary shift to agriculture and settled village life, using polished stone tools. The subsequent Chalcolithic phase saw the introduction of the first metal technology, specifically copper, which was used alongside traditional stone implements. Both periods represent significant steps toward greater economic complexity and social organization. Understanding these transitions is fundamental for tracking the long-term progress from nomadic subsistence to more advanced settled and technological societies.

70. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Jainism and Buddhism emerged as powerful intellectual and social challenges to the established Vedic order in the sixth century BCE. By rejecting the divine authority of the Vedas and questioning the efficacy of complex rituals, they offered more accessible spiritual paths. Their focus on ethical conduct and individual effort, rather than birth-based status, attracted diverse followers, particularly those seeking relief from the rigidities of the Varna system. This movement reflected a significant shift in Indian religious thought toward more inclusive and personally transformative philosophical traditions.

71. (D) The Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods.
The Megalithic culture of South India flourished roughly between the first millennium BCE and the early centuries CE, making it contemporary with the Later Vedic and Mahajanapada periods in Northern India. While the north was experiencing the rise of territorial states and the second urbanization, the south was transitioning into its own unique Iron Age marked by elaborate burial practices. This chronological alignment highlights the diverse regional cultural trajectories occurring simultaneously across the subcontinent. Understanding these connections is essential for a comprehensive view of ancient Indian historical development.

72. (A) A historical novel based on the Vedic period
Primary archaeological sources consist of original material remains that provide direct evidence of the past, such as pottery shards, ancient coins, and city ruins. These tangible artifacts offer objective data for reconstructing ancient technologies, economies, and lifeways. In contrast, a historical novel is a modern creative work that interprets or reimagines the past, making it an unreliable and non-archaeological source. Distinguishing between genuine archaeological evidence and fictional interpretations is fundamental for rigorous historical research and the accurate reconstruction of ancient societies based on factual remains.

73. (C) Archaeology and Linguistics
The Aryan debates rely heavily on the integration of archaeological findings and linguistic analysis. Archaeologists examine material remains to track potential migration patterns and cultural shifts, while linguists study the relationships between Sanskrit and other Indo-European languages to trace origins and spread. Combining these disciplines allows researchers to develop hypotheses regarding the movement and identity of early Indo-Aryan groups. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for addressing complex historical questions where written records are absent or provide only partial information, requiring multiple lines of evidence.

74. (A) Greater territorial administration and increased royal authority.
During the Later Vedic period, political institutions evolved toward more centralized and territorial forms of governance. The power of the king, or Rajan, increased significantly as he took on greater roles in administration and defense, often claiming hereditary authority. This shift was accompanied by the decline of tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti, which became less influential. These developments reflect the transition from tribal chiefdoms to the formation of Janapadas, where territorial control and royal power became the primary foundations of political organization.

75. (B) 2 and 3 only
Modern archaeology provides a nuanced understanding of the decline of the Indus Civilization, emphasizing its gradual and regionally varied nature. The old theory of a sudden, catastrophic Aryan invasion as the sole cause has been largely discredited due to a lack

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of physical evidence. Instead, researchers point to environmental factors, such as the drying of major rivers and climate change, as significant contributing causes. While urban life declined, it did not vanish completely, but transformed into decentralized post-Harappan cultures, marking a transition rather than total erasure.

76. (B) the period of the Mahajanapadas
The Mahajanapada period was characterized by significant economic advancements, including the emergence of a money economy and the establishment of long-distance trade routes. The introduction of punch-marked coins facilitated commerce and state administration, marking a transition from barter systems. These developments were supported by agricultural surpluses and increased artisanal production in growing urban centers. This economic vitality fostered greater regional integration and the expansion of trade networks across the subcontinent. This era laid the foundations for the complex commercial and financial systems that characterized later ancient empires.

77. (C) A way of life centered on herding and managing livestock.
Pastoralism refers to a social and economic system focused on the management and herding of domesticated livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats. This way of life often involves seasonal movement to find grazing land, distinguishing it from settled agriculture. In early societies like the Rig Vedic period, pastoralism was a primary source of wealth and subsistence, deeply influencing social structures and religious practices. Understanding this mode of production is essential for analyzing the transition to more settled agrarian lifestyles and the evolution of prehistoric economies.

78. (D) The high degree of uniformity in town planning and standards.
The high level of standardization observed in Harappan town planning, brick sizes, and weight systems strongly suggests the existence of a centralized administrative authority. This uniformity across diverse and distant sites indicates a capacity for large-scale planning and regulation that would be difficult to achieve through independent local actions. While the exact nature of this government remains debated, its effective control over urban infrastructure and trade remains a hallmark of the civilization. This organizational efficiency reflects a sophisticated political structure capable of maintaining standards over a vast territory.

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79. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Reconstructing ancient history requires the integration of diverse sources with their specific origins and authors. The Rigveda is the earliest Vedic text, providing foundational knowledge of Indo-Aryan culture. The Indica by Megasthenes offers a Greek perspective on Mauryan society, while Xuanzang's travelogue provides a Chinese view of medieval India. Simultaneously, punch-marked coins represent some of the earliest physical evidence of a money economy. Matching these sources with their respective categories is essential for analyzing the multiple perspectives that contribute to our understanding of the past.

80. (B) Their temporal relationship to the events they describe.
The distinction between primary and secondary indigenous literature is based on when the works were composed relative to the historical periods they discuss. Primary sources were written by contemporaries or near-contemporaries to the events, offering direct evidence of the beliefs and conditions of that time. Secondary sources are later interpretations or compilations that rely on earlier data to reconstruct history. This temporal relationship is crucial for historians to evaluate the reliability and directness of the information provided by various literary traditions and texts.

81. (B) a, c, and d
The Mahajanapada period was defined by the existence of sixteen major states, predominantly located in Northern India. Among these, Magadha emerged as the most powerful, eventually forming the basis for subsequent empires. This era is characterized as the 'second urbanization' due to the resurgence of cities and a money economy driven by agricultural surpluses. While many were monarchies, the period also included significant republican states, or Gana-Sanghas. Understanding these characteristics is vital for tracing the political and urban evolution that shaped ancient subcontinental history.

82. (A) The geographical spread and location of sites across the landscape.
Settlement distribution refers to the spatial arrangement and density of archaeological sites across a specific geographic area. Studying this pattern helps researchers understand how ancient communities chose their locations based on environmental factors like water sources and fertile soil. Analysis of site distribution can also reveal regional networks, migration routes, and the extent of cultural influence. This geographical perspective is essential for reconstructing the relationship between early humans and their environment and for understanding the regional variations that defined Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures.

83. (C) The Arthashastra
The Arthashastra, attributed to Kautilya, is a prime example of secular literature from ancient India, focusing on the pragmatic aspects of statecraft. It provides detailed prescriptions for administration, economic policy, legal systems, and foreign relations, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of political science. Unlike religious texts that emphasize spiritual duties and rituals, the Arthashastra offers a realistic view of the functioning of an ancient kingdom. This work remains an invaluable source for historians seeking to understand the institutional and administrative foundations of early Indian states and empires.

84. (D) Ritual sacrifices to natural deities like Agni, Indra, and Soma.
Religious life during the Rig Vedic period was primarily focused on the performance of sacrifices, or Yajnas, to personified natural forces. Deities such as Agni (fire), Indra (war and rain), and Soma were invoked through hymns to secure protection, prosperity, and success in cattle-raiding. These rituals were communal and centered on the direct interaction between humans and the divine through offerings. This naturalistic polytheism reflects a society closely tied to the environment, where divine favor was sought to navigate the challenges of a pastoral and semi-nomadic existence.

85. (C) 3, 2, 1, 4
Establishing the correct chronological order is fundamental for understanding the long-term progression of historical phases in the Indian subcontinent. The sequence began with the Neolithic period marked by food production, followed by the first urbanization of the Harappan civilization. The Later Vedic period subsequently saw the transition to settled agrarian life and iron use, eventually leading to the formation of the Mahajanapadas and the second urbanization. Tracking this timeline allows historians to analyze the technological and social transformations that linked these diverse eras.

86. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The bipartite layout of Harappan cities, consisting of a raised citadel and a more extensive lower town, is interpreted as a reflection of social stratification. The citadel's elevation and fortification suggest its use as a center for administrative, ritual, and elite residential activities. In contrast, the lower town likely housed the general population, including artisans and laborers. This deliberate spatial organization indicates a society with clear distinctions in status and function, demonstrating a high degree of social and political control within the urban environment.

87. (D) The difficulty in distinguishing historical truth from narrative embellishment.
Utilizing myths and legends for historical reconstruction presents a major challenge because these narratives often blend factual elements with symbolic and imaginative content. While they reflect cultural values and traditions, distinguishing actual events from later additions and exaggerations requires careful analysis. These stories were often transmitted orally over generations, leading to significant changes and the introduction of supernatural themes. Consequently, historians must use comparative methods and cross-reference these tales with archaeological evidence to identify potential historical cores within the broader narrative framework of ancient folklore.

88. (A) Improved control over agricultural surplus through iron technology.
The expansion of the state system and the rise of large territorial kingdoms were greatly facilitated by the socio-economic changes brought about by iron technology. More efficient iron tools allowed

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for the clearance of forests and better cultivation, leading to a substantial increase in agricultural productivity. This generated a reliable surplus that could support a professional army, a growing bureaucracy, and urban centers. Consequently, the ability to control and manage this economic surplus became the primary foundation for the political power and territorial expansion characteristic of the Mahajanapada period.

89. (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
Epigraphy and paleography are complementary but distinct disciplines; epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on hard materials like stone or metal, while paleography focuses on the evolution of ancient handwriting. Similarly, numismatics is far more than the aesthetic collection of coins; it is a vital historical source providing data on economic history, metallurgy, and political boundaries. Both fields offer objective, tangible evidence that is essential for cross-referencing and validating literary records. Correctly defining these disciplines is fundamental for accurate archaeological and historical analysis.

90. (A) The first time cities and urban life emerged, as seen in the Harappan civilization.
The concept of 'first urbanization' identifies the Harappan civilization as the initial phase of sophisticated city-based living in the Indian subcontinent. This period is characterized by planned urban layouts, specialized crafts, and extensive trade networks that distinguished it from preceding rural cultures. These cities established the first standards for engineering, administration, and public infrastructure. Recognizing this phase as the beginning of urban life is essential for understanding the long-term history of human settlement and the development of social complexity in South Asia.

91. (C) Neolithic
The presence of polished stone tools, plant and animal domestication, and the development of pottery for storage are defining characteristics of the Neolithic phase. This period marks the fundamental transition to food production and the establishment of the first settled village communities. Polished tools allowed for more efficient agriculture, while pottery facilitated the storage of surplus food. These developments provided the stability necessary for population growth and the eventual rise of more complex social structures, marking a revolutionary shift in the human relationship with the environment.

92. (B) The Vedic corpus
The Aryan debates are primarily centered on the identity, origins, and arrival of the people associated with the Vedic corpus. Scholars analyze these ancient hymns and texts to understand the culture, religion, and social organization of the Indo-Aryan speaking groups. This research involves comparing linguistic features and historical descriptions in the Vedas with archaeological and genetic evidence. Understanding this relationship is crucial for determining how Vedic culture emerged and its role in the broader development of ancient Indian civilization following the Harappan decline.

93. (C) It was a regionalized and multi-causal process of decline.
Archaeologists generally agree that the decline of the Indus Civilization was a complex, regionalized process rather than a single, catastrophic event. Different cities showed signs of decline at various times, influenced by diverse factors such as changing river systems, climatic shifts, and the disruption of trade. This gradual de-urbanization led to the transformation of the centralized urban system into localized, decentralized cultures. This nuanced perspective highlights the resilience and eventual adaptation of the people as they transitioned from urban centers to more dispersed settlements.

94. (D) Prominent nature deities were superseded by a new triad of major gods.
The religious landscape transitioned from the Early to Later Vedic periods as older nature deities like Indra and Agni lost their supreme importance. In their place, a new triad of major gods—often identified with creation, preservation, and destruction—emerged as the focus of devotion. This shift was accompanied by the increasing complexity of rituals and the rise of philosophical speculation regarding the ultimate reality. This evolution reflects the changing social and political environment, as religious thought moved toward more abstract and systematic theological frameworks.

95. (A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

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Specific archaeological sites are defined by unique evidence that offers insights into their historical significance. Lothal is renowned for its dockyard, indicating maritime trade, while Kalibangan features the earliest evidence of a ploughed field. Mohenjo-daro is distinguished by the Great Bath, reflecting ritual or communal practices. Mehrgarh serves as a foundational site for understanding the transition to Neolithic and Chalcolithic life. Identifying these matches is essential for reconstructing the diverse technological and cultural achievements that defined various phases of early subcontinental civilization.

96. (B) The concept of 'janapada' or territory, over 'jana' or tribe.
During the Later Vedic period, political organization shifted from tribal identity toward territorial control. The concept of the Janapada, or a defined territory occupied by a tribe, became the primary unit of administration. This change marked the transition from a semi-nomadic society to a more settled agrarian one, where land possession was central to political authority. As rulers began to exercise power over specific regions, the foundations were laid for the larger territorial states and centralized monarchies that would eventually dominate the Mahajanapada period.

97. (B) The process of searching for and identifying new archaeological sites.
In archaeology, exploration is the systematic process used to locate and document potential sites of historical interest before any digging occurs. This non-invasive method involves surveying landscapes, analyzing surface remains, and utilizing modern technology like satellite imagery to identify areas where ancient human activity took place. Exploration provides the preliminary data necessary for planning detailed excavations and mapping the distribution of ancient settlements. Effective exploration ensures that researchers can strategically focus their efforts on sites that are most likely to yield significant historical information.

98. (A) Social and intellectual ferment questioning established Brahmanical orthodoxy.
The emergence of heterodox sects in the sixth century BCE represented a profound social and intellectual movement that challenged the dominance of Brahmanical rituals and hierarchies. These groups sought alternative spiritual paths emphasizing ethical conduct, individual liberation, and non-violence. By questioning the authority of the Vedas and the efficacy of animal sacrifices, they provided inclusive options for people across all social strata. This ferment reflected a broader search for meaning and justice during a period of significant urban growth and social transformation in the Gangetic valley.

99. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The spread of iron technology around 1000 BCE was a transformative event that enabled the colonization of the dense forests of the Gangetic plains. Stronger and more durable than bronze, iron tools allowed for effective forest clearance and deep plowing, leading to a massive expansion of agriculture. This increase in productivity supported larger populations and the formation of more complex political units. Consequently, iron served as the technological catalyst for the rise of territorial states and the eventual development of urban centers during the second urbanization.

100. (D) The Harappans imported iron from Mesopotamia for making tools.
Harappan trade was highly developed, featuring extensive maritime and land links with regions such as Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf. This trade was likely based on a barter system, as evidenced by the lack of coinage and the presence of Harappan seals abroad. However, the civilization thrived entirely within the Bronze Age and did not possess iron technology. Iron was not used in Mesopotamia or the Indus Valley during this period. The Harappans primarily used bronze and stone for tool production, reflecting their specific technological stage.

101. (A) a, b, c, and d
Social stratification in the Vedic age evolved significantly, moving from flexible occupational divisions to a rigid, hereditary Varna system. While the Rigveda contains mythological origins for these classes, early social structure allowed for more mobility. By the Later Vedic period, status became fixed by birth, and the concept

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of untouchability began to emerge toward the end of this era. This institutionalization of hierarchy defined social duties and interactions for centuries. Understanding this progression is essential for analyzing the long-term development of Indian social organization and its institutionalized inequalities.

102. (B) The introduction of copper tools alongside the existing stone tool technology.
The Chalcolithic phase is distinguished by the technological advancement of metallurgy, specifically the first widespread use of copper. Unlike the preceding Neolithic period, which relied solely on stone, Chalcolithic communities utilized both metal and stone implements. This dual technology supported more specialized tasks in agriculture and artisanal production. While stone tools remained common for daily use, the introduction of copper marked a significant step toward greater technical complexity. Identifying these mixed material assemblages helps archaeologists define this transitional phase in the development of early subcontinental civilizations.

103. (D) Constructing cultural sequences and chronological frameworks.
Dating archaeological sites is fundamental for establishing a reliable timeline of human activities and cultural transformations. By determining the age of artifacts and layers, researchers can construct chronological frameworks that show how societies evolved, interacted, and declined over time. This temporal context is essential for comparing different cultures and understanding the broader patterns of historical development. Without accurate dating, the archaeological record remains a collection of isolated facts rather than a continuous and meaningful narrative of the past, making it a critical tool for historical research.

104. (A) A broader assembly of the common people of the tribe.
The Samiti was a vital political institution during the Early Vedic period, functioning as a popular assembly of the common tribesmen. It provided a platform for discussing tribal matters, electing the Rajan, and making collective decisions on issues such as war and communal resources. Unlike the more exclusive Sabha, the Samiti represented a broader cross-section of the tribe, ensuring that the chieftain's authority remained rooted in the consent of the people. Its presence highlights the participatory and democratic elements inherent in early Indo-Aryan tribal governance.

105. (C) 2, 3, 4, 1
Tracking the chronological sequence of ancient developments is essential for analyzing the progression of Indian civilization. The mature phase of the Indus Civilization represents the first urbanization, followed by the composition of the Rig Veda during the subsequent pastoral phase. The adoption of iron technology in the Gangetic valley later facilitated agricultural expansion, eventually leading to the intellectual ferment and the emergence of Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BCE. This timeline illustrates the transition from urban centers to tribal groups and back to a sophisticated urban and state system.

106. (A) The inability to decipher the Indus script.
Our understanding of Harappan society and polity remains limited because the pictographic script found on seals and artifacts has not yet been successfully deciphered. While archaeological remains provide data on town planning and trade, the lack of readable written records leaves many details of their political structure, social norms, and administrative policies unclear. Without the ability to read their own words, researchers must rely on interpretations of material evidence, which can lead to multiple competing hypotheses. Deciphering the script remains a major goal for fully uncovering the history of this civilization.

107. (D) The dominance of a single, unified empire across the entire subcontinent.
The second urbanization in the sixth century BCE was characterized by the rise of numerous urban centers and territorial states in the Gangetic basin. This period saw the return of writing and the extensive use of burnt bricks and iron technology. However, political power remained fragmented among sixteen Mahajanapadas and various republican states, rather than being consolidated under a single, unified empire. The competition between these states eventually led to the dominance of Magadha, but the era itself was defined by political diversity and the flourishing of multiple independent power centers.

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108. (B) Burial sites and mortuary rituals.
Megaliths are large stone structures primarily used as elaborate burial sites during the Iron Age in South India. These monuments, which take various forms such as stone circles and dolmens, often contain grave goods like iron tools and black-and-red ware pottery. Their construction reflects complex mortuary rituals and a significant investment of communal labor to honor the dead. By studying these sites, archaeologists gain insights into the social hierarchy, religious beliefs, and technological progress of early southern communities, providing a vital source for understanding their unique cultural identity.

109. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The Rigveda is not a single, monolithic text but a vast collection of hymns composed by different sages over many generations. Linguists and historians have identified distinct layers within the text, with some parts reflecting earlier stages of the language and others showing later developments. These variations reveal how religious beliefs, social practices, and linguistic styles evolved during the long period of its composition. Recognizing this multifaceted structure is essential for accurately using the Rigveda as a historical source to track the transformations occurring within early Indo-Aryan society over time.

110. (D) Provenance analysis of non-local materials at specific sites.
Archaeologists reconstruct patterns of exchange in pre-literate phases by identifying materials found at a site that are not naturally available in that region. Provenance analysis uses scientific techniques to determine the original source of items like specific stones, metals, or pottery types. Finding these non-local goods indicates that established trade networks linked distant communities. This evidence allows researchers to map out ancient trade routes, identify regional interdependencies, and understand the economic reach of Neolithic and Chalcolithic societies, even in the absence of written commercial records or standardized coinage.

111. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Historical sources are broadly categorized into archaeological and literary types, each offering unique perspectives on the past. Archaeological sources include tangible remains like inscriptions and coins, while literary sources are divided into indigenous works and foreign travelogues. Myths and legends also provide cultural insights but require careful critical analysis. Notably, an autobiography is considered a primary literary source because it is a firsthand account written by a contemporary witness. Understanding these classifications is essential for evaluating the reliability and context of the information used to reconstruct ancient history.

112. (B) Vedic social stratification.
The emergence of the Varna system marks a pivotal development in the institutionalization of social stratification within Vedic society. This framework eventually categorized people into four hierarchical classes—Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—based on birth. While initially more fluid, the system became a rigid defining feature of the Later Vedic period, determining social roles and ritual status. Analyzing the rise of Varna is essential for understanding the long-term evolution of Indian social organization and the development of the complex hierarchical structures that shaped subsequent cultural and religious history.

113. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Foreign accounts from Greek, Chinese, and Arabic writers are invaluable because they provide external perspectives and chronological data often missing from indigenous sources. These observers frequently recorded details about contemporary politics, social customs, and administrative practices from an outsider's viewpoint. Their records offer a vital cross-reference for validating and dating events described in Indian religious and secular literature. By integrating these diverse accounts, historians can develop a more comprehensive and objective understanding of ancient Indian society and its interactions with the broader world across different historical eras.

114. (A) Chanhudaro
Chanhudaro is famously recognized as a major industrial center of the Indus Civilization, specifically dedicated to craft specialization like bead-making. Archaeological excavations at the site have uncovered numerous workshops, raw

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materials, and finished beads made from stones like carnelian and lapis lazuli. This concentration of artisanal activity indicates a highly organized production system designed for both domestic use and long-distance trade. The presence of specialized tools and waste products further confirms the site's role as a primary manufacturing hub, highlighting the sophisticated economic organization that characterized Harappan urban life.

115. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
The intellectual and political history of ancient India is defined by influential figures and their associated philosophies or texts. Gautama Buddha and Vardhamana Mahavira founded Buddhism and Jainism, respectively, challenging established norms. Makkhali Gosala established the Ajivika sect, focused on determinism, while Kautilya authored the Arthashastra, a foundational work on statecraft. Correctly matching these individuals with their contributions is essential for tracing the diverse religious, philosophical, and political ideas that emerged during the transformative sixth century BCE and the subsequent periods of consolidation and change.

116. (D) The Upanishads
The Upanishads represent a significant shift in Vedic thought, moving away from ritualistic sacrifices toward profound philosophical inquiry. These texts explore the nature of the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman), emphasizing internal spiritual knowledge as the path to liberation. This transition reflects a period of intellectual ferment where seekers questioned the efficacy of external rituals and sought deeper metaphysical truths. The ideas developed in the Upanishads laid the foundations for major schools of Indian philosophy and significantly influenced the subsequent religious and cultural history of the subcontinent.

117. (C) A combination of animal herding and early forms of agriculture.
During the pastoral Neolithic phase, subsistence was based on a dual economy of animal husbandry and early agricultural practices. Communities domesticating livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats also began the deliberate cultivation of crops like wheat and barley. This combined approach allowed for a more stable and diverse food supply, supporting the transition toward settled village life. While hunting and gathering continued to play a role, the increasing reliance on managed animal and plant resources marked a fundamental shift in human subsistence strategies and social organization during this period.

118. (B) The scientific digging of a site to recover and record archaeological remains.
Excavation is the scientific and systematic process of digging into archaeological sites to recover artifacts and record the context of their discovery. This careful method involves documenting the specific soil layers, or strata, where objects are found, which is essential for establishing a chronological sequence. By meticulously uncovering and recording remains like buildings, tools, and pottery, researchers can reconstruct the activities and environments of past societies. Excavation serves as the primary means of obtaining direct, tangible evidence about the human past, transforming physical remains into meaningful historical data.

119. (D) Increasing rigidity of the Varna system and the priestly class.
A major social development during the Later Vedic period was the consolidation and increasing rigidity of the Varna system. Society became strictly divided into four hierarchical classes, where social status and duties were determined by birth rather than merit or choice. Simultaneously, the priestly class, or Brahmanas, gained significant influence through their exclusive role in performing complex and necessary rituals. This shift established a long-lasting hierarchical framework that restricted social mobility and deeply influenced the religious and social interactions of ancient Indian communities for many centuries to come.

120. (C) 4 only
Archaeology consists of specialized fields that must be correctly defined for accurate historical research. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions, while numismatics is the study of coins. Archaeology itself is the broader study of material remains rather than just literary texts. Among the pairs provided, only exploration is correctly matched, as it involves the discovery

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and documentation of potential archaeological sites before excavation begins. Understanding these distinct disciplines and their specific roles is essential for effectively utilizing various types of archaeological evidence to reconstruct and analyze the diverse cultures of the ancient past.

121. (C) An indigenous development evolving from earlier Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures in the region.
The origin of the Indus Civilization is now understood by most scholars as an indigenous development that evolved gradually from regional Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures. Sites like Mehrgarh provide evidence of earlier settlements that pioneered agriculture and crafts, laying the foundations for urban life. This process involved the integration of diverse local communities and the gradual development of standardized town planning and trade. This indigenous perspective replaces older theories of sudden foreign colonization, highlighting the internal social and technological progress that eventually led to the maturity of the subcontinent's first urbanization.

122. (A) A mix of monarchical and republican systems.
The political landscape of the Mahajanapada period was characterized by a diverse mix of monarchies and republican states. Monarchies, such as Magadha and Kosala, were ruled by hereditary kings with centralized authority. Republican states, or Gana-Sanghas like the Vajjis, were governed by councils of clan leaders through collective decision-making. This coexistence of different systems reflects the political experimentation and diversity present in ancient India. Understanding this variety is essential for analyzing how different regions organized power and how these competing systems eventually led to the consolidation of larger empires.

123. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
There is a significant cultural and chronological gap between the decline of the urban Harappan civilization and the emergence of the pastoral society described in the Rigveda. The Harappan cities transitioned into decentralized post-Harappan cultures rather than being immediately replaced by Vedic urban centers. Rig Vedic society was primarily rural and semi-nomadic, lacking the sophisticated urban planning and standardized artifacts of the preceding civilization. Recognizing this gap is crucial for understanding that these two major phases of ancient history represent distinct social and economic systems with different origins and developmental trajectories.

124. (B) Emergence of the second urbanization.
The introduction of iron technology in the Gangetic valley was a primary driver for the emergence of the second urbanization in the sixth century BCE. Iron tools allowed for more effective clearance of dense forests and deep plowing, resulting in substantial agricultural surpluses. This economic foundation supported the growth of new towns, the expansion of trade, and the formation of large territorial states. Consequently, iron served as the technological catalyst that enabled the return of urban life and the complex political organization that defined this transformative period in ancient Indian history.

125. (B) a, b, c, and d
Literary sources for ancient Indian history include a wide range of written records from both indigenous and foreign origins. Indigenous sources encompass religious texts like the Puranas and narrative traditions like the Jataka tales, while foreign accounts include records left by Greek and Chinese travelers. These diverse texts offer insights into the social, religious, and political life of their times. Notably, Ashokan edicts are classified as archaeological or epigraphic sources rather than purely literary, as they are official inscriptions on stone designed for public communication and administrative use.

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126. (D) Patriarchal, pastoral, and semi-nomadic.
Society during the Rig Vedic period was fundamentally patriarchal, with the family and tribe serving as the primary social units. The economy was centered on pastoralism, where cattle were the chief measure of wealth and social status. This semi-nomadic lifestyle involved seasonal movements to find grazing lands, meaning territorial boundaries were not yet fixed. While agriculture was practiced, it was secondary to livestock herding. This social structure influenced their religious beliefs,

political institutions, and tribal organization, defining the initial phase of Indo-Aryan culture in the Indian subcontinent.

127. (A) Harappa
The Mahajanapadas were a specific group of sixteen large territorial states that emerged in Northern India during the sixth century BCE. Famous examples include Magadha, Kosala, and Avanti, which played central roles in the political history of the second urbanization. Harappa, however, was a major city of the much earlier Indus Civilization and had declined long before these states formed. Correctly identifying the regions associated with the Mahajanapada period is essential for distinguishing between different phases of urban and state development and for accurately mapping the political geography of ancient India.

128. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Neolithic phase is widely described as a revolution because it marked the fundamental transition from food gathering to food production. This shift allowed human communities to establish permanent village settlements and produce a predictable food supply for the first time. The resulting economic stability led to population growth, the development of new technologies like pottery and weaving, and more complex social organization. Consequently, the Neolithic revolution laid the essential foundations for all subsequent advancements in human civilization, including the rise of urban centers and organized state systems.

129. (B) The doctrine of absolute determinism (Niyati), where everything is pre-ordained.
The Ajivika sect, founded by Makkhali Gosala, maintained a philosophy centered on the doctrine of Niyati, or absolute determinism. This belief system posited that all events and human actions are pre-ordained by an impersonal cosmic force, making individual effort and free will irrelevant. This perspective stood in sharp contrast to the contemporary doctrines of karma and individual agency advocated by Buddhism and Jainism. The Ajivikas' fatalistic worldview influenced their ascetic practices and provided a unique philosophical alternative during the period of intellectual ferment in the sixth century BCE.

130. (A) The Indus and its tributaries, and the now-dry Ghaggar-Hakra.
The Harappan Civilization was geographically centered along the Indus River and its numerous tributaries, which provided fertile land and vital transport routes. Recent research also emphasizes the significance of the now-dry Ghaggar-Hakra river system, along which many major sites have been discovered. These river valleys supported the intensive agriculture necessary for urban development and facilitated trade networks. Mapping these settlements along specific river systems is essential for understanding the environmental foundations of the civilization and the impact of hydrological changes on its eventual decline and de-urbanization.

131. (A) 1 and 2 only
Archaeological sources are vital for reconstructing the past through the study of material remains. Exploration involves the systematic search for and documentation of sites, while excavation is the scientific process of digging to recover artifacts and information. While epigraphy and numismatics are also archaeological in nature, they focus specifically on inscriptions and coins, respectively. Understanding the primary roles of exploration and excavation as the foundational methods for discovering and extracting historical data is essential for a comprehensive analysis of ancient societies based on tangible, non-literary evidence.

132. (D) The theory that Indo-European languages originated and expanded from India.
The 'Out of India' theory is one of several hypotheses discussed in the Aryan debates, proposing that the Indian subcontinent was the original homeland of the Indo-European languages. This theory suggests that these languages and their speakers migrated outward from India to other parts of Eurasia, rather than arriving through an inward migration from Central Asia. This perspective challenges the more widely accepted model of an external origin and seeks to establish a long-standing indigenous presence for the people associated with Vedic culture. The debate continues as scholars evaluate linguistic and genetic evidence.

133. (C) The rise of Mahajanapadas and an agrarian surplus-producing economy.

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The second urbanization in India is inextricably linked to the socio-economic transformations occurring in the Gangetic basin during the sixth century BCE. The widespread use of iron technology facilitated the production of significant agricultural surpluses, which supported growing urban centers and specialized trade. This period saw the rise of territorial Mahajanapadas and a thriving money economy. Consequently, towns reappeared as hubs of political and commercial activity, marking the resurgence of a sophisticated urban lifestyle that had been absent since the decline of the Harappan civilization.

134. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Understanding ancient history requires correctly matching key terms with their meanings and historical associations. The Sabha was a prominent Vedic assembly, while Varna referred to the system of social classification. The Janapada represented the territorial units that emerged during the Later Vedic period, and the Ajivikas were a significant heterodox sect of the sixth century BCE. Correctly identifying these relationships is essential for analyzing the political, social, and religious developments that characterized the transition from tribal organizations to more complex state systems and diverse philosophical movements in ancient India.

135. (D) The Bronze Age urbanism in the region for several centuries.
The decline of the Indus Civilization marked the end of the first successful experiment with Bronze Age urbanism in the Indian subcontinent. For several centuries following this de-urbanization, the region lacked planned cities, standardized weights, and extensive maritime trade. Human settlements transformed into localized, rural Chalcolithic cultures as the centralized urban system collapsed. This long period of de-urbanization only ended with the rise of the second urbanization in the Gangetic valley around the sixth century BCE, highlighting the significant cultural and economic disruption that followed the Harappan decline.

136. (A) Scientific analysis of material composition and origins for traded goods.
In the absence of written records, archaeologists use scientific analysis to reconstruct patterns of exchange during the Chalcolithic phase. By examining the material composition of artifacts, researchers can identify the geographical origin of raw materials like specific stones or metals. Finding these materials far from their source provides definitive evidence of trade and social networks linking distant communities. This objective data allows for the mapping of ancient exchange patterns and regional interconnections, offering insights into the economic organization and resource management strategies of prehistoric societies without relying on texts.

137. (C) Foundations of numerous major Indian religions and schools of thought.
The philosophical ideas developed during the Vedic period, particularly in the Upanishads, provided the foundational concepts for various Indian religious and philosophical traditions. Concepts like the soul, ultimate reality, and the cycle of rebirth became central to later Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. By shifting focus from external ritual to internal knowledge and metaphysical inquiry, these early thinkers established a long-standing tradition of intellectual exploration. These ideas continue to influence Indian culture and spirituality, demonstrating the enduring impact of Vedic thought on the intellectual heritage of the subcontinent and the broader world.

138. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Indigenous literature is classified based on its temporal proximity to the events described, where primary sources are contemporary works and secondary sources are later interpretations. A modern history book about the Mahajanapadas is a secondary source because it analyzes data from the past using current scholarly methods. In contrast, original texts from that period, like early Buddhist scriptures or the Arthashastra, serve as primary indigenous sources. Recognizing this distinction is fundamental for evaluating the nature of historical evidence and ensuring that reconstructions are based on direct, contemporary accounts whenever possible.

139. (D) Oligarchic and council-based.
Political institutions during the Rig Vedic period, such as the Sabha and Samiti, suggest a structure

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where power was shared and decisions were made collectively. These councils allowed for consultation between the chieftain and the elders or common people, ensuring that governance was not solely the responsibility of one individual. This council-based system reflects an oligarchic or participatory tradition within the tribal organization, where the Rajan relied on the consensus of the tribal elite and the community. This participatory nature distinguish early Vedic polity from the centralized monarchies of later periods.

140. (D) a, b, c, d, and e
The Chalcolithic phase is characterized by a unique combination of technological and social features that mark a transitional stage in history. These include the dual use of copper and stone tools, a primarily rural settlement pattern, and the production of distinctive painted pottery. This period historically follows the pure stone-tool cultures of the Neolithic and precedes the widespread adoption of iron. Understanding these features collectively allows archaeologists to define the specific economic and cultural identity of Chalcolithic societies and their role in the long-term technological evolution of the Indian subcontinent.

141. (C) Burial customs and social structure of the Iron Age in that region.
Megaliths are vital archaeological sources for understanding the Iron Age in South India, as they offer direct evidence of mortuary practices and social organization. These large stone monuments served as communal burial sites, often containing diverse grave goods that reflect the status and gender of the deceased. By analyzing the construction of these tombs and the artifacts found within them, researchers can reconstruct ancient social hierarchies and religious beliefs. These structures provide a unique regional perspective on technological progress and cultural traditions that were distinct from the developments occurring in Northern India.

142. (D) The middle Gangetic plain.
The middle Gangetic plain served as the primary geographical center for the emergence of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BCE. This region was experiencing rapid urbanization, the rise of powerful territorial states, and a flourishing of trade and artisanal production. This dynamic social and economic environment provided the necessary support for intellectual ferment and the growth of new religious movements. The concentration of these sects in the Gangetic heartland reflects their close relationship with the transformative changes occurring in the urban and political centers of Northern India.

143. (A) A network of planned cities, towns, and villages with a hierarchical structure.
The settlement pattern of the Indus Valley Civilization was characterized by a sophisticated and hierarchical network of planned cities, smaller towns, and agricultural villages. Major cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro served as administrative and commercial hubs, while smaller sites focused on specialized production or agriculture. This organized layout indicates a high degree of regional integration and central planning, where different settlements performed specific roles within a complex urban system. Understanding this hierarchical distribution is essential for analyzing the civilization's advanced economic organization and the effective management of its vast territory.

144. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Using religious literature like the Puranas for historical reconstruction is challenging due to the significant problem of dating these texts. The Puranas were compiled, revised, and expanded over many centuries, making it difficult to assign a single, precise date to their contents. These works often blend historical lineages and potential facts with extensive mythological narratives and symbolic themes. Consequently, historians must use critical analytical methods to distinguish possible historical kernels from later additions, necessitating a cautious and multifaceted approach to utilizing these stylized religious traditions as historical evidence.

145. (B) The origins of the Vedic culture and its relationship with the Harappan civilization.
The Aryan debates are historically significant because they address fundamental questions regarding the origins of Vedic culture and its connection to the preceding Harappan

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civilization. Researchers investigate whether the Indo-Aryan speakers were indigenous to the subcontinent or arrived through migration, and how they interacted with existing urban cultures. These questions are central to understanding the cultural and social foundations of ancient India. The debate continues to evolve as new archaeological, linguistic, and genetic data offer fresh insights into the complex transitions that shaped the early history of the Indian subcontinent.

146. (A) The Varna system remained flexible in the Rig Vedic period but became rigid later.
A key transformation between the Rig Vedic and Later Vedic periods was the evolution of the Varna system from a flexible occupational classification to a rigid hereditary hierarchy. In the early period, social status was not strictly determined by birth, and there was some degree of professional mobility. However, during the Later Vedic era, the four-fold stratification became institutionalized, with individuals' roles and status fixed by their lineage. Recognizing this shift is essential for understanding the development of social stratification in ancient India and the long-term impact of hereditary status on subcontinental history.

147. (C) It facilitates reconstruction of chronologies, territories, and economic conditions.
Numismatics is a crucial historical source because it provides objective material evidence for reconstructing precise chronologies, territorial boundaries, and economic health. The names and titles of rulers inscribed on coins allow for the establishment of dynastic timelines, while the distribution of specific currencies reveals the geographical extent of a state's influence. Furthermore, the metal content and purity of coinage offer direct insights into metallurgy and economic prosperity. These tangible findings complement and often clarify information from literary and epigraphic sources, making numismatics indispensable for a comprehensive historical analysis.

148. (D) The Mahajanapada Period (c. 6th century BCE)
The emergence of large, organized territorial states, including both monarchies and republics, is a defining political development of the Mahajanapada period around the sixth century BCE. This era marked a significant departure from earlier tribal chiefdoms, with states establishing centralized administrations, professional armies, and capital cities. This transformation was driven by agricultural surpluses and the resurgence of urban life. Understanding the rise of these competing power centers is essential for tracing the political consolidation that eventually led to the formation of the first large empires in the Indian subcontinent.

149. (C) 3, 2, 4, 1
Establishing the chronological origin of historical sources is vital for tracking the development of information over time. Harappan seals represent the earliest administrative artifacts, predating formal literary accounts. Greek observers like Megasthenes provided the first extensive external records in the fourth century BCE, followed centuries later by Chinese pilgrims such as Fa-Hien. Finally, Arabic scholars like Al-Biruni arrived in the eleventh century CE, offering later perspectives. Following this sequence allows historians to analyze how perceptions of India changed across different eras as documented by diverse and increasingly sophisticated foreign observers.

150. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Ancient Indian political structures evolved from tribal chiefdoms to complex territorial states over several centuries. The Harappan civilization likely featured a centralized authority, while the Early Vedic period was dominated by tribal units known as Janas. During the Later Vedic phase, these tribes transitioned into territorial Janapadas. Ultimately, the sixth century BCE witnessed the emergence of sixteen Mahajanapadas, representing both monarchical and republican systems of governance. Correctly matching these periods with their dominant polity types is essential for analyzing the long-term progression of political organization and authority in the subcontinent.

151. (D) Pastoralism constitutes one element of the comprehensive Neolithic economic system.
Pastoralism and Neolithic food production are closely linked but distinct concepts, where pastoralism focuses on animal management within the broader Neolithic transition. The

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Neolithic period is characterized by the overall shift from gathering to production, which included both agriculture and livestock herding. Pastoralism represents the specialized herding aspect of this new economic system. In many regions, these two subsistence strategies were combined to create a more stable and diverse food supply. Understanding this relationship is essential for analyzing the complex subsistence patterns and social organizations that emerged during the first settled human phases.

152. (A) It possessed centralized authority as seen in standardized weights and planning.
The most plausible inference regarding Harappan polity is that it possessed a high degree of centralized authority, evidenced by the standardization of urban infrastructure across vast distances. The uniform layout of cities, identical brick dimensions, and consistent systems of weights and measures indicate a powerful administrative control capable of enforcing strict regulations. While the specific nature of this leadership—whether a king, a council, or a priestly class—remains unknown, the effective coordination required to maintain such standards points to an organized and centralized political structure that governed the civilization's extensive territory.

153. (C) Literary
Religious and secular literature are two primary categories of literary sources used to reconstruct ancient history. Religious works like the Vedas and Puranas offer insights into spiritual beliefs and social norms, while secular texts like the Arthashastra provide information on statecraft, law, and economics. Together, these written records offer a multifaceted view of past societies. Analyzing both types of literature is essential for a comprehensive understanding of historical periods, as they often complement each other by providing different perspectives on the cultural, intellectual, and institutional life of ancient Indian communities.

154. (A) A shift in the geographical focus from the Saptasindhu region to the Gangetic plains.
The transition from the Rig Vedic to the Later Vedic period is marked by a significant eastward shift in the geographical focus of Indo-Aryan communities. While early groups were primarily located in the Saptasindhu or Punjab region, later populations expanded into the fertile Gangetic plains. This movement was facilitated by the clearing of forests using iron tools and led to the establishment of more permanent, agrarian settlements. This geographical expansion fundamentally altered the social and political landscape, supporting the rise of larger territorial units and the transformation of Vedic tribal culture.

155. (B) a, b, c, and d
Jainism and Buddhism shared several key characteristics as heterodox movements emerging in the sixth century BCE. Both originated in the Gangetic valley as challenges to Brahmanical orthodoxy, rejecting the authority of the Vedas and the supremacy of the priestly class. They both emphasized the ethical principle of non-violence and used vernacular languages to make their teachings accessible to a broader audience. These common features reflect their shared role in the social and intellectual ferment of the time, offering inclusive and personalized spiritual paths that differed significantly from traditional ritual-dominated practices.

156. (B) Sacred consecration rituals and assertions of divine approval.
Post-Vedic theories of state often explored the legitimacy of royal authority through assertions of divine approval and sacred consecration rituals. Ceremonies like the Rajasuya and Ashvamedha were used to elevate the king's status and symbolize his cosmic role as a protector and maintainer of order. These rituals sought to justify increasing royal power by linking it to spiritual and supernatural forces. Such assertions reflect the transition from tribal leadership to more formalized and centralized monarchies, where rulers utilized religious symbolism to consolidate their authority and secure the loyalty of their subjects.

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157. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Indian history is characterized by two distinct phases of urban development, known as the first and second urbanizations. The first urbanization refers to the Harappan civilization, which established planned cities in the Indus basin during the Bronze Age. After a long period of de-urbanization, the second urbanization emerged

in the Gangetic valley around the sixth century BCE, driven by iron technology and agricultural surplus. Both statements are accurate as they identify these two separate and significant urban resurgences, which represent foundational milestones in the socio-economic and political history of the subcontinent.

158. (D) The regional transition to the Iron Age and specific mortuary traditions.
The Megaliths of South India are archaeologically significant because they represent a distinctive regional transition to the Iron Age, marked by unique burial and commemorative practices. These large stone structures, often associated with iron implements and specialized pottery, reflect a society with developed mortuary rituals and organized communal labor. Their presence highlights a cultural trajectory in the southern peninsula that was independent of, yet contemporary with, the urban and state formations occurring in Northern India. Studying these monuments is essential for a comprehensive and regionally balanced understanding of ancient subcontinental historical development.

159. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The decline of the Indus civilization is now understood as a gradual process of de-urbanization rather than a single catastrophic event. Evidence from various sites shows that decline occurred at different times and was influenced by diverse regional factors like climate change and hydrological shifts. This process led to the transformation of a centralized urban system into localized and decentralized post-Harappan cultures. This nuanced perspective recognizes the continuity and adaptation of human communities as they transitioned from large planned cities to simpler, more dispersed settlements, eventually forming the basis for subsequent regional developments.

160. (B) The movement of carnelian beads from Lothal (Gujarat) to Harappa (Punjab).
Internal trade within the Harappan civilization is best exemplified by the systematic movement of specialized artisanal products, such as carnelian beads, between distant regional centers. The production of these beads at sites like Lothal in Gujarat and their subsequent distribution to major cities like Harappa in Punjab demonstrates a highly integrated and regulated domestic market. This exchange was facilitated by standardized weights and measures and supported by a sophisticated administrative structure. Analyzing such internal trade patterns highlights the economic interdependency and shared material culture that united the diverse territories of the Indus Civilization.

161. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Reconstructing ancient Indian history requires the integration of diverse sources, including epigraphy, numismatics, and various literary accounts. The study of inscriptions and ancient coins provides objective material evidence, while foreign travelogues offer valuable external perspectives on contemporary society. Simultaneously, indigenous works like the Rigveda serve as primary literary records of early Indo-Aryan culture. Each of these sources contributes unique information that, when combined and analyzed critically, allows for a more comprehensive and validated understanding of the past. Utilizing these multiple types of evidence is fundamental for rigorous and balanced historical research.

162. (A) A wide dispersal of agricultural and pastoral communities across various eco-zones, particularly in Western and Central India.
The settlement distribution of the Chalcolithic phase is characterized by numerous agricultural and pastoral villages spread across diverse ecological regions, especially in Western and Central India. These communities were typically located near permanent water sources and fertile land, reflecting their reliance on a mixed economy of farming and livestock herding. Unlike the centralized urban system of the Harappans, Chalcolithic settlements were decentralized and adapted to specific local environments. Mapping these sites helps researchers understand the regional variations, resource utilization strategies, and social organization that defined these diverse post-Harappan and non-Harappan communities across the landscape.

163. (C) A form of naturalistic polytheism, involving the worship of personified natural forces.
The religion of the Rig Vedic Aryans was a form of naturalistic polytheism centered on the

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veneration of personified natural forces. Deities such as Indra, representing thunder and war, and Agni, representing fire and sacrifice, were invoked through hymns to secure divine favor and protection. These rituals were communal and focused on securing material benefits for the tribe. This religious system reflects a society deeply interconnected with the environment, where the forces of nature were seen as active agents in human affairs. Understanding this belief system is essential for analyzing the initial spiritual foundations of Vedic culture.

164. (D) Purusha Sukta of the Rigveda.
The Purusha Sukta, a hymn found in the tenth mandala of the Rigveda, provides the earliest mythological origin for the Varna system. It describes the creation of the four social classes—Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—from the body of a primordial being. This narrative served to religiously legitimize the hierarchical social structure by presenting it as a natural and divinely ordained order. While the Rig Vedic period was initially more flexible, this hymn reflects the incipient institutionalization of social stratification that would become a defining and rigid feature of later Indian social organization and culture.

165. (C) The existence of large, competing territorial states (kingdoms and republics).
The most defining feature of the polity during the Mahajanapada period was the emergence of sixteen large territorial states that competed for regional dominance. This era was characterized by the transition from tribal chiefdoms to more centralized monarchies and collective republican systems, or Gana-Sanghas. These states possessed established capitals, organized administrations, and professional armies, reflecting a significant increase in political complexity and social organization. The ongoing competition and warfare between these states eventually led to the consolidation of power and the rise of the first major empires in the Indian subcontinent's history.

166. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
Foreign travelogues provide valuable chronological perspectives on ancient India when correctly matched with their respective historical periods. Megasthenes visited during the Mauryan era, while Fa-Hien arrived centuries later during the Gupta period. Xuanzang's travels coincided with the reign of Harshavardhana, and Al-Biruni's observations were recorded during the time of Mahmud of Ghazni. Understanding these associations is essential for analyzing how external observers perceived Indian society, religion, and administration at different times. These records offer a unique cross-reference for validating and contextualizing information from indigenous literary and archaeological sources across several centuries.

167. (D) Regional transformation into decentralized and diverse post-Harappan cultures.
Following the decline of the Indus Civilization, the subcontinent experienced a regional transformation into various decentralized and diverse post-Harappan cultures. Instead of a sudden re-urbanization, the centralized urban system was replaced by localized, rural settlements that adapted to specific regional environments and resource availability. These communities often combined Harappan traditions with new local developments, marking a transitional phase from the Bronze Age urbanism to more dispersed agricultural and pastoral societies. Understanding this transformation is essential for recognizing the continuity and adaptation of human communities during the period of de-urbanization that preceded the rise of later state systems.

168. (A) Widespread use of iron tools and weaponry.
The Neolithic phase is defined by the revolutionary shift to agriculture and settled village life, but it predates the adoption of iron technology. This period is characterized by the use of polished stone tools, plant and animal domestication, and the development of pottery for storage. While these advancements laid the foundation for more complex societies, iron only became widely used centuries later during the subsequent Iron Age. Correctly identifying the technological limits of the Neolithic is essential for distinguishing it from later phases and for understanding the specific lithic and economic milestones that defined this foundational period.

169. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The 'Aryan debate' is far from settled and remains a complex, ongoing scholarly discussion that

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involves various lines of evidence. While the old invasion model has been largely discredited by archaeology, newer theories regarding migration or indigenous origins continue to be debated among historians, linguists, and geneticists. No single theory is universally accepted, as researchers work to integrate diverse data into a coherent narrative of early cultural transitions. Recognizing the ongoing and multifaceted nature of this debate is crucial for understanding that historical knowledge is often refined and revised as new evidence and interdisciplinary methods emerge.

170. (A) Expanding agriculture and iron tools that generated significant surpluses.
The economic foundation for the second urbanization in the sixth century BCE was the significant agricultural surplus generated by the adoption of iron tools. Stronger iron implements enabled the clearance of dense forests and the effective cultivation of the fertile Gangetic basin, leading to a massive increase in productivity. this surplus supported the rise of cities, the growth of a money economy, and the expansion of trade and artisanal production. These developments were essential for the formation of large territorial states and the complex social stratification that characterized the resurgence of urban and political life in Northern India.

171. (B) 2 only
Among various archaeological sources, excavation is the specific scientific process that involves digging into the earth to recover and record material remains from the past. While exploration involves surface survey and epigraphy and numismatics focus on specific artifacts like inscriptions and coins, only excavation meticulously uncovers the physical context and stratified layers of human occupation. This method provides the most direct and detailed evidence for reconstructing ancient lifeways, technologies, and chronological sequences. Understanding the unique role of excavation is fundamental for distinguishing it from other non-invasive or more specialized archaeological research techniques used to study history.

172. (B) Jana (tribe)
The political institutions of the Rig Vedic Aryans were fundamentally organized around the tribe, known as the Jana. At this early stage, political identity was tied to kinship and tribal affiliation rather than fixed territorial boundaries. The Rajan, or chieftain, served as the military and administrative leader of the Jana, guided by tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti. This tribal structure reflect a semi-nomadic society where the movement of people and livestock was central. Understanding the role of the Jana is essential for analyzing the initial phase of political organization before the rise of Janapadas.

173. (C) Pakistan and India
The major sites of the Indus Civilization are primarily located within the modern territories of Pakistan and Northwestern India. This vast urban culture spanned river valleys such as the Indus and the Ghaggar-Hakra, with famous cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro situated in present-day Pakistan, and sites like Lothal and Dholavira in India. Mapping the distribution of these settlements across contemporary borders is essential for understanding the civilization's extensive geographical reach and for coordinating archaeological research and preservation efforts between the two countries. This regional footprint defines the physical extent of the subcontinent's first urbanization.

174. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The rise of heterodox sects like Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BCE represented a profound protest against the ritual-dominated Brahmanical order. These new movements emphasized ethical conduct, individual spiritual effort, and the principle of non-violence over complex and expensive animal sacrifices. By offering more inclusive spiritual paths that challenged the dominance of the priestly class and the rigidities of the Varna system, they appealed to a wide range of social groups. This intellectual ferment reflected a broader search for more personally meaningful and morally centered alternatives during a period of significant social and urban change.

175. (C) a, b, c, and d
The Mahajanapada period was a complex era defined by several significant political, economic, and religious characteristics. These included the coexistence of monarchical and republican

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states, the emergence of a money economy with punch-marked coins, and the intellectual ferment that led to the flourishing of heterodox sects. Contrary to earlier phases, this period was also characterized by the resurgence of cities and the widespread use of iron technology. Recognizing these diverse features collectively is essential for understanding the transformative nature of the sixth century BCE, which laid the foundations for subsequent social and political developments in ancient India.

176. (B) Polished for a finer edge and greater durability.
Neolithic tools represented a significant technological advancement over those of earlier periods because they were meticulously polished and ground. This process created a smoother surface and a finer, more durable cutting edge, which was essential for specialized tasks like forest clearance and woodworking. These polished stone axes, or celts, were far more efficient than the roughly flaked implements of the Paleolithic and Mesolithic eras. Identifying these distinct lithic characteristics helps archaeologists track the transition to settled life and the increasing technical sophistication that accompanied the rise of agriculture and the establishment of permanent village communities.

177. (B) The Arthashastra
The Arthashastra is the most valuable source for studying the administrative and economic policies prescribed for ancient Indian monarchs. Attributed to Kautilya, this secular treatise offers a detailed and pragmatic guide to statecraft, covering topics such as law, taxation, bureaucracy, and military strategy. Unlike religious or philosophical texts, the Arthashastra focuses on the practical functioning of a kingdom and the duties of a ruler to ensure stability and prosperity. Its comprehensive nature provides historians with a unique view into the institutional foundations and sophisticated political thought that characterized the development of early Indian states and empires.

178. (A) Marks the first emergence of planned cities and complex organization.
The Harappan civilization is described as the 'first urbanization' because it represents the earliest phase in the Indian subcontinent where planned cities and a complex social organization emerged. These cities featured standardized town planning, advanced drainage systems, and specialized craft production, distinguishing them from the simpler rural cultures that preceded them. The high degree of regional integration and administrative coordination required to maintain such an urban system marks a significant technological and social milestone. Recognizing this phase as the beginning of urban life is essential for understanding the long-term progression toward social complexity and organized statehood in South Asia.

179. (C) A highly stratified hierarchy defined by a rigid varna system.
Social structure during the Later Vedic period became increasingly stratified and hierarchical, defined by the consolidation of a rigid Varna system. Society was strictly divided into four classes—Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—where social roles and status were determined by birth. This period also saw the rise of the priestly class's influence and the introduction of specific duties and restrictions for each Varna. This move away from more flexible tribal organizations established a long-lasting social framework that significantly influenced the cultural and religious interactions of ancient Indian communities for many centuries, limiting individual social mobility.

180. (D) The significant difficulty in verifying factual content and intent.
The primary challenge in using myths and legends for historical reconstruction is the significant difficulty in verifying their factual content and the original intent of the authors. These narratives often blend historical memories with symbolic themes and narrative embellishments, making it hard to distinguish objective truths from creative additions. Furthermore, as these stories were often transmitted orally over generations, they underwent constant change and reinterpretation. While they offer valuable insights into a society's worldview and values, historians must approach them with extreme caution, cross-referencing these tales with more tangible archaeological and contemporary literary evidence whenever possible.

181. (C) Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age

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The chronological development of human technology follows a general sequence defined by the primary materials used for tool production. The Stone Age represents the earliest phase, followed by the development of metallurgy and the Bronze Age, as seen in the Harappan civilization. Finally, the widespread adoption of iron technology around 1000 BCE marked the beginning of the Iron Age. Understanding this progression from stone to bronze and then to iron is fundamental for tracking the technological milestones that shaped human societies and for accurately placing various cultures and civilizations within their specific historical and technical contexts in the Indian subcontinent.

182. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Foreign accounts of India by observers like Megasthenes and Xuanzang are classified as literary sources that offer a valuable outsider's perspective on the past. These records are particularly useful for providing chronological information and details about social and political conditions that may be omitted or viewed differently in indigenous texts. However, historians must use these accounts critically, recognizing that they may contain cultural misunderstandings or specific authorial biases. Both statements are accurate, highlighting both the historical value and the necessary caution required when utilizing foreign records as primary evidence for reconstructing ancient Indian society and history.

183. (D) Later Vedic Period and subsequent Iron Age cultures.
The introduction of iron technology around 1000 BCE serves as a significant marker for the beginning of the Later Vedic period and the rise of subsequent Iron Age cultures. Iron tools and weapons were far more effective than those made of bronze or stone, enabling the colonization of the dense Gangetic plains and increasing military capabilities. This technological shift facilitated agricultural expansion, population growth, and the eventual formation of larger territorial states. Identifying this transition is essential for understanding the socio-economic and political transformations that led from tribal chiefdoms to the complex urban and state systems of the second urbanization.

184. (A) Material analysis of seals, figurines, and various structural ruins.
Reconstructing the religion and society of the Indus Civilization relies primarily on the meticulous analysis of material remains, as their script remains undeciphered. Archaeologists study artifacts like seals, terracotta figurines, and ritual structures like the Great Bath to infer beliefs, social roles, and everyday life. The standardized layout of cities and the distribution of specialized goods also offer insights into social stratification and political organization. In the absence of readable written records, these tangible remains provide the only direct evidence for understanding the cultural identity and sophisticated urban world of the subcontinent's first urbanization phase.

185. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Ancient historical phases are distinguished by key technological and cultural features that mark their unique identities. The Neolithic phase saw the first agriculture and polished stone tools, followed by the Chalcolithic's use of copper alongside stone. The Harappan period is defined by its bronze technology and first urbanization, while the Later Vedic period is characterized by the use of iron and Painted Grey Ware pottery. Correctly matching these periods with their defining features is essential for tracing the long-term progression of technological and social complexity in the Indian subcontinent, from early food production to the Iron Age.

186. (A) The Mahajanapadas.
The expansion of the state system in the sixth century BCE was characterized by the rise of the sixteen Mahajanapadas, or great territorial states. This period marked a transition from smaller tribal units to larger, more complex polities with centralized administrations, established capitals, and organized armies. These states, which included both monarchies and republics, competed for regional supremacy, leading to significant political consolidation. The rise of the Mahajanapadas signifies a fundamental change in political organization and authority, setting the stage for the eventual emergence of the first large empires in the Indian subcontinent's history.

187. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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The Upanishads mark a profound intellectual shift in Vedic thought, moving focus from external ritualism to internal philosophical inquiry. By exploring abstract concepts like Brahman, Atman, and the cycle of rebirth, these texts sought deeper metaphysical truths beyond the sacrificial instructions found in the earlier Brahmanas. This transition reflects a period of spiritual search where knowledge and meditation were elevated above ritual action. Both the assertion and the reason are accurate, highlighting how the Upanishads laid the foundational ideas for major Indian philosophical traditions and significantly influenced the subsequent religious history of the subcontinent.

188. (B) The succession of rulers in the Magadhan empire.
The Aryan debates focus on broad questions regarding the origins, arrival, and cultural identity of early Indo-Aryan groups, rather than specific dynastic successions. Major themes include the potential homeland of these groups, their relationship with the preceding Harappan civilization, and whether they arrived through migration or invasion. These discussions utilize linguistic, archaeological, and genetic data to reconstruct foundational cultural transitions. In contrast, the succession of Magadhan rulers is a matter of documented political history within established state systems, which is separate from the prehistoric and proto-historic questions central to the complex and ongoing Aryan debates.

189. (C) The generation of large agricultural surpluses in the Gangetic basin.
The generation of large agricultural surpluses in the Gangetic basin was the most significant economic development that enabled the emergence of the second urbanization. This increase in productivity, driven by iron technology and fertile soil, provided the necessary resources to support non-agricultural populations like artisans, merchants, and administrators. The resulting economic foundation led to the growth of cities, the expansion of trade, and the formation of powerful territorial states. Understanding this shift from subsistence to surplus is essential for analyzing the resurgence of urban life and the complex social stratification that defined the sixth century BCE in Northern India.

190. (D) Contemporaneity to the event it describes.
A primary literary source is fundamentally distinguished from a secondary one by its contemporaneity to the historical events it records. These works were written by individuals who were direct witnesses or lived during the period being discussed, providing first-hand evidence of contemporary beliefs, events, and conditions. Secondary sources, in contrast, are later interpretations or analyses of these original materials. This temporal relationship is crucial for historians when evaluating the reliability and directness of evidence, as contemporary accounts offer a more authentic basis for reconstructing the social, political, and cultural realities of the past.

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191. (B) 2 and 4 only
The Harappan Civilization is characterized by sophisticated town planning and advanced drainage systems, which reflect a highly organized urban culture. Furthermore, archaeological evidence, such as the discovery of Harappan seals in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia, confirms its extensive trade contacts with contemporary western civilizations. Contrary to some myths, it was not a purely rural culture, and its script remains undeciphered. Correctly identifying these specific urban and commercial features is essential for accurately reconstructing the civilization's advanced socio-economic organization and its prominent role within the ancient world's complex network of international trade and interaction.

192. (B) Monarchies and republics (gana-sanghas).
The political landscape of the Mahajanapada period was a diverse mix of monarchical and republican systems. Monarchies, such as Magadha and Kosala, were ruled by hereditary kings with centralized power. Republics, or Gana-Sanghas like the Vajjis, were governed by assemblies of clan leaders through collective decision-making and discussion. This coexistence of different systems reflects the political experimentation and diversity present in ancient India during the second urbanization. Understanding this variety is essential for analyzing how different regions organized authority and how these competing

systems eventually influenced the political consolidation of larger empires in subcontinental history.

193. (B) Impersonal cosmic principles determine all events, rendering human effort irrelevant.
The Ajivika philosophy, founded on the principle of Niyati, posits that all events and human destinies are determined by impersonal cosmic forces. This doctrine suggests that human effort, free will, and ethical choices have no power to change what is already pre-ordained by the universe. This deterministic worldview stood in sharp contrast to the contemporary beliefs in individual karma and agency advocated by Buddhism and Jainism. Understanding the Ajivika perspective is essential for analyzing the diverse range of philosophical ideas that emerged during the sixth century BCE and their challenge to conventional notions of morality and effort.

194. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Megaliths are not houses but elaborate burial monuments primarily made of large stones, widely found across South India. These Iron Age structures frequently served as communal tombs and often contain significant grave goods, including iron tools and black-and-red ware pottery. Their construction reflects complex mortuary rituals and organized social effort to honor the deceased. While the first statement is incorrect, the second accurately identifies the true purpose and archaeological characteristics of these megalithic formations. Studying these monuments provides vital insights into the unique technological progress and cultural traditions of early southern communities during the Iron Age.

195. (C) Neolithic and Chalcolithic Phases
Pastoralism and food production are subsistence strategies most closely associated with the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases. These periods mark the revolutionary transition from nomadic food gathering to settled life based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The ability to produce a predictable food supply allowed for population growth, permanent village settlements, and the development of new technologies like pottery. While stone tools remained common, the Chalcolithic also saw the introduction of copper metallurgy. Together, these economic shifts provided the foundational stability necessary for the eventual rise of more complex and urbanized societies in the Indian subcontinent.

196. (D) Intellectual dissent against Brahmanical ritualism and social hierarchies.
The emergence of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism was primarily driven by intellectual dissent against the established Brahmanical order. These movements questioned the absolute authority of the Vedas, the efficacy of elaborate animal sacrifices, and the rigid social hierarchies of the Varna system. By emphasizing individual ethical conduct and spiritual equality, they offered more inclusive and personally meaningful alternatives to traditional practices. This period of intellectual ferment reflected a broader search for spiritual justice and clarity during a time of significant social and urban transformation in the Gangetic valley, profoundly influencing Indian history.

197. (C) The study of past human societies through their material remains.
Archaeology is the scientific discipline dedicated to studying past human societies by analyzing their material remains. This includes artifacts, buildings, and other physical evidence recovered through systematic exploration and excavation. By examining these tangible remains, archaeologists can reconstruct ancient technologies, economies, and social structures, especially for periods lacking written records. This material-based approach offers objective evidence that complements and sometimes corrects information from literary sources. Archaeology provides the primary framework for understanding the long-term history of human development and the diverse cultural identities that have shaped the past across different regions and eras.

198. (B) 3 and 4
Correctly matching historical phases with their defining features is essential for understanding the progression of ancient Indian civilization. The Mahajanapada period is characterized as the second urbanization, following the reappearance of cities in the Gangetic valley. Simultaneously, the Neolithic phase is defined by the revolutionary shift to pastoralism and food production through agriculture and domestication. In contrast, the

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Harappan civilization was the first urbanization, and iron technology was introduced later during the Vedic period. Recognizing these accurate pairings is fundamental for tracking the technological and social milestones that defined various eras of subcontinental history.

199. (D) The long period of oral transmission prior to their written compilation.
The challenge of dating religious literature like the Vedas and Puranas arises from the long history of oral transmission before these texts were finally committed to writing. For many centuries, these works were preserved through specialized mnemonic techniques, allowing for potential changes and additions over generations. This fluid oral period makes it difficult for modern historians to fix precise dates for the original compositions or to separate early core material from later revisions. Recognizing this multilayered chronological structure is essential for accurately using these stylized religious traditions as historical evidence for different phases of ancient Indian society.

200. (A) Four hierarchical groups: Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra.
During the Later Vedic period, social stratification was formalized through the Varna system, which divided society into four distinct hierarchical groups. These included the Brahmanas (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers), Vaishyas (traders and agriculturists), and Shudras (laborers). Each class was assigned specific social and ritual duties, and status became increasingly determined by birth rather than merit. This institutionalized hierarchy established a rigid social framework that significantly limited individual mobility and influenced the cultural and religious interactions of ancient Indian communities for many centuries, shaping the long-term trajectory of subcontinental social organization.

201. (C) a, c, d, b, e
Establishing the correct chronological sequence of key events is fundamental for analyzing the progression of Indian civilization. The timeline began with the Neolithic transition to food production, followed by the flourishing of urban centers in the Harappan civilization. The subsequent pastoral phase saw the composition of Later Vedic texts as Indo-Aryan groups expanded. This was followed by the rise of territorial Mahajanapadas in the Gangetic valley, eventually leading to the widespread use of punch-marked coins as part of the flourishing money economy. Tracking this sequence allows historians to analyze the technological and social transitions linking these diverse eras.

202. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The settlement pattern of the Harappan civilization provides definitive evidence of a sophisticated understanding of urban planning and administrative coordination. Most cities were meticulously laid out on a grid pattern with standardized brick dimensions and advanced water management systems. This degree of uniformity across vast distances indicates a powerful centralized authority capable of implementing and enforcing strict architectural and engineering standards. Both the assertion and the reason are accurate, highlighting how the physical layout of Harappan cities reflects a highly organized and technologically advanced society that established the first urban traditions in the Indian subcontinent.

203. (D) An assembly of clan or lineage heads.
Republican states, known as Gana-Sanghas, were polities during the Mahajanapada period where power was shared among a council or assembly of clan and lineage heads. Unlike monarchies ruled by hereditary kings, these republics practiced collective leadership through discussion and consensus. Power was distributed among the elite members of the ruling clans, who collectively managed administration and defense. This alternative political tradition, primarily found in the foothills of the Himalayas and parts of Bihar, demonstrates the diversity of political organization and participation present in ancient India alongside monarchical systems of government.

204. (B) Inscriptions
Epigraphy is the specialized archaeological discipline dedicated to the systematic study and interpretation of ancient inscriptions. These written records, engraved on hard materials like stone, metal, or pottery, provide direct evidence of royal edicts, administrative policies, and social donations. By deciphering the scripts and

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languages used in these inscriptions, researchers can reconstruct political chronologies, territorial boundaries, and contemporary social norms. Epigraphic records are particularly valuable because they offer tangible, contemporary evidence that often provides a reliable cross-reference for validating and clarifying information found in indigenous and foreign literary accounts.

205. (C) Brahman, Atman, and the cycle of rebirth.
The philosophical ideas of the Upanishads focus on exploring profound metaphysical concepts such as Brahman (ultimate reality), Atman (the individual soul), and the cycle of rebirth (Samsara). These texts shift away from the ritualistic focus of earlier Vedic works toward internal spiritual knowledge and the quest for liberation. By speculating on the interconnectedness of existence and the nature of consciousness, the Upanishads laid the intellectual foundation for various schools of Indian philosophy. Their emphasis on meditation and understanding the self deeply influenced the subsequent religious and cultural history of the Indian subcontinent and beyond.

206. (D) Pastoral and cattle-centered economy with supplementary agricultural activities.
The economy during the Rig Vedic period was fundamentally centered on pastoralism, where cattle were the primary source of wealth and social status. This lifestyle involved a semi-nomadic existence to find grazing land, with tribes frequently engaging in cattle-raiding. While supplementary agricultural activities were practiced, they were secondary to livestock management. This economic focus deeply influenced the period's social structure, religious rituals, and political organization, as seen in the frequent references to cattle in Vedic hymns. Understanding this pastoral foundation is essential for analyzing the initial stage of Indo-Aryan culture before the transition to settled agrarian life.

207. (A) What was the tax rate in the Magadhan kingdom?
The Aryan debates center on fundamental questions regarding the origins, arrival, and cultural identity of early Indo-Aryan groups, using linguistic and archaeological evidence. Major themes include whether these groups were indigenous or migrated, and their potential relationship with the preceding Harappan civilization. These discussions focus on the prehistoric and proto-historic roots of subcontinental culture. In contrast, the specific tax rates of the Magadhan kingdom are a matter of documented historical administration within a mature state system. Such administrative details are separate from the complex theoretical questions central to the debate over Aryan origins and identity.

208. (B) Combined the use of stone with the new technology of copper metallurgy.
The tools of the Chalcolithic phase represent a technological advancement because they combined traditional stone implements with the newly developed technology of copper metallurgy. Unlike the preceding Neolithic period, which relied exclusively on stone, Chalcolithic communities utilized both materials for various agricultural and artisanal tasks. This dual technology allowed for more specialized and durable tools, marking a significant step toward greater technical complexity. Identifying these mixed material assemblages helps archaeologists define this transitional phase and understand the regional progress made toward more advanced metal use in the early history of the Indian subcontinent's diverse cultures.

209. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Current archaeological consensus identifies the decline of the Indus Civilization as a complex, multi-causal process rather than a single event like a foreign invasion. Evidence from various sites points toward gradual de-urbanization influenced by factors like climate change, shifting river courses, and the collapse of long-distance trade. The old theory of a violent Aryan invasion is largely unsupported by physical evidence and lacks widespread scholarly acceptance. Recognizing this nuanced perspective is essential for understanding the resilience and adaptation of human communities as they transitioned from large planned cities to decentralized post-Harappan cultures.

210. (A) Regional Buddhist sites and the contemporary state of monastic life.

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The primary contribution of Chinese travelers like Fa-Hien and Xuanzang lies in their detailed accounts of Buddhist sites and the state of monastic life in ancient India. As pilgrims, they visited major monasteries, recorded doctrinal developments, and described the condition of holy places across the subcontinent. Their records offer unique chronological data and eyewitness perspectives on the religion's growth and cultural impact. These travelogues complement indigenous literary and archaeological sources, providing a detailed view of ancient Indian religious geography and social conditions that is essential for a comprehensive historical reconstruction.

211. (A) 1 and 3 only
The expansion of the state system in the sixth century BCE was marked by the rise of the sixteen Mahajanapadas and the resurgence of urban life, known as the second urbanization. This period was driven by agricultural surpluses and a flourishing money economy. Contrary to some assumptions, the political systems included both monarchies and republics, and the emergence of these states was directly related to advancements in iron technology and agricultural productivity. Identifying these specific political and urban features is essential for accurately analyzing the transformative nature of the sixth century BCE in Northern Indian history.

212. (D) Iron Age
The Megaliths of South India are chronologically placed within the Iron Age, reflecting a unique regional transition to metal use and specific mortuary traditions. These large stone monuments, which frequently served as communal burial sites, often contain grave goods such as iron implements and black-and-red ware pottery. Their construction marks a significant cultural phase in the southern peninsula that was contemporary with the urban and state formations occurring in Northern India. Studying these structures is essential for understanding the technological progress, social organization, and cultural identity of early southern communities during the first millennium BCE.

213. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Reconstructing ancient history requires the integration of diverse source types and their specific examples. Archaeological sources like Harappan pottery offer material evidence, while indigenous literary works like the Arthashastra provide information on statecraft. Foreign accounts such as the Indica by Megasthenes offer external perspectives, and Puranic king lists represent narrative traditions. Correctly matching these categories is essential for analyzing the multiple types of evidence that contribute to our understanding of the past. Utilizing these diverse sources allows historians to develop a more balanced and validated picture of ancient Indian society, politics, and culture across different eras.

214. (B) An indigenous evolution from preceding regional cultures like those at Mehrgarh.
The origin of the Indus Civilization is now understood by most archaeologists as an indigenous development that evolved gradually from earlier regional cultures, such as those found at Mehrgarh. This process involved the internal social and technological progress of local communities, who pioneered agriculture, crafts, and long-distance trade. This indigenous perspective replaces older theories of sudden foreign colonization, highlighting the continuity and adaptation that eventually led to the maturity of the subcontinent's first urbanization. Recognizing this evolution is essential for understanding how the Harappan civilization emerged as a unique and sophisticated product of regional subcontinental development.

215. (D) Incipient administrative structures and the territorial Janapada concept.
During the Later Vedic period, the state structure became more complex, leading to the development of the territorial Janapada concept and incipient administrative structures. As Indo-Aryan groups transitioned to settled agrarian life, political identity shifted from tribal affiliation to the control of defined territories. This change supported the rise of more centralized authority and the formation of rudimentary bureaucracies to manage agriculture and defense. Understanding this transition is essential for tracing the evolution from simple tribal chiefdoms to the larger and more organized state systems that eventually dominated the Mahajanapada period in ancient India.

216. (A) a, b, c, and d

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The Rig Vedic period is distinguished by several specific features that reflect its fundamentally tribal and pastoral nature. These include a patriarchal and semi-nomadic society where wealth was measured in cattle, and natural deities like Indra and Agni were prominently worshipped. The political structure was centered on the tribal unit known as the Jana. In contrast, features like a rigid and hereditary Varna system are characteristic of the Later Vedic period. Identifying these distinct early traits is essential for understanding the initial phase of Indo-Aryan culture before the transition to more settled and stratified agrarian societies.

217. (C) The production of a food surplus, leading to population growth and specialization of labor.
The transition from pastoralism to settled agriculture during the Neolithic phase allowed for the production of a reliable food surplus, which was a fundamental shift in human history. This economic stability supported significant population growth and the establishment of permanent village settlements. As not everyone was required for food production, labor specialization emerged, leading to the development of new crafts like pottery and weaving. These changes provided the essential foundations for social complexity and the eventual rise of more advanced state systems. Recognizing this transition is vital for analyzing the long-term progression of human civilization.

218. (A) The concentration of workshops and waste materials related to specific crafts like bead-making and shell-working.
Craft specialization in Harappan sites like Chanhudaro and Lothal is clearly evidenced by the archaeological discovery of concentrated workshops and specialized waste materials. These remains, including unfinished products and tools related to bead-making and shell-working, indicate that specific areas were dedicated to the systematic production of specialized goods. This organized industrial activity suggests a highly developed economic system with professional artisans and regulated production for both domestic and long-distance trade. Identifying these specialized zones is essential for reconstructing the sophisticated industrial organization and commercial networks that characterized the urban economy of the Indus Civilization.

219. (D) Dissenting responses to socio-religious complexities and ritualistic hierarchies.
The emergence of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism in the sixth century BCE is best viewed as a dissenting response to the increasing ritualistic complexity and social hierarchies of the Brahmanical order. These movements rejected the absolute authority of the Vedas and questioned the necessity of elaborate sacrifices, emphasizing instead ethical conduct and individual liberation. By offering inclusive spiritual paths that ignored Varna distinctions, they appealed to those seeking a more accessible spiritual life. This intellectual ferment reflected a broader search for meaning and justice during a period of significant social transformation and urbanization.

220. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Literary sources must be used critically because they were often written with specific biases, purposes, or perspectives that may not provide an objective picture of the past. Religious texts prioritize spiritual themes, while foreign accounts are influenced by external cultural lenses. Recognizing these inherent viewpoints is essential for historians to evaluate the reliability and context of the information. Both the assertion and the reason are accurate, highlighting the necessity of cross-referencing literary records with other diverse sources to develop a balanced and validated reconstruction of ancient society, politics, and culture across different historical eras.

221. (C) All of the above.
The first and second urbanizations in ancient India were distinguished by significant differences in geography, technology, and written records. The first, represented by the Harappan civilization, was centered in the Indus basin and utilized bronze technology with an undeciphered script. The second emerged later in the Gangetic valley, driven by iron technology and characterized by the resurgence of writing. Both Statement A and B accurately identify these major shifts in subcontinental urban development. Recognizing these distinct characteristics is essential for

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analyzing the different socio-economic and technological foundations that shaped these two significant phases of state and urban formation.

222. (D) The study of non-local raw materials found at a site.
Archaeologists reconstruct patterns of exchange during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods by studying non-local raw materials discovered at specific sites. The presence of materials like specific stones, metals, or pottery types that are not naturally available in the local region indicates established trade and social networks linking distant communities. This objective evidence allows researchers to map ancient trade routes and identify regional interdependencies even in the absence of written records. Analyzing the movement of these goods provides vital insights into the economic organization and resource management strategies of prehistoric societies and their connections across the landscape.

223. (A) The systematic search for and documentation of archaeological sites.
In the context of archaeological sources, exploration refers to the systematic process used to locate and document potential sites of historical interest. This preliminary method involves surveying landscapes, analyzing surface remains, and using technological tools to identify areas where ancient human activity occurred. Exploration provides the necessary data for mapping the distribution of ancient settlements and for planning future excavations. Effectively identifying sites through exploration ensures that researchers can strategically focus their efforts, allowing for a broader and more accurate understanding of ancient human patterns across diverse geographic regions without immediate or invasive digging.

224. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Rig Vedic society was characterized by a more flexible social structure where status was not strictly determined by birth, making the first statement incorrect. However, the Later Vedic period did see the consolidation of a hierarchical and increasingly rigid Varna system where social position and duties were fixed by lineage. This shift from occupational flexibility to hereditary status is a defining feature of the transformation between these two major phases of ancient Indian history. Recognizing this progression is essential for understanding the development of the complex social hierarchies that influenced subcontinental cultural and religious interactions for many centuries.

225. (B) A multi-dimensional and regionally varied process of gradual de-urbanization.
The decline of the Harappan civilization is accurately described as a multi-dimensional and regionally varied process of gradual de-urbanization rather than a single catastrophic event. Different cities showed signs of decline at different times, influenced by diverse factors like climate change, shifting river systems, and the disruption of trade. This process led to the transformation of a centralized urban system into localized, rural post-Harappan cultures. Recognizing this nuanced perspective is essential for understanding the resilience and adaptation of human communities as they transitioned from large planned cities to simpler and more dispersed settlements across the landscape.

226. (A) Vaishnavism
Buddhism, Jainism, and the Ajivikas were prominent heterodox sects that emerged in the sixth century BCE, challenging the established Brahmanical order. These movements rejected the absolute authority of the Vedas and questioned the efficacy of rituals and Varna hierarchies. In contrast, Vaishnavism developed within the broader Brahmanical tradition, focusing on devotion to the deity Vishnu. Correctly distinguishing between heterodox movements and later developments within mainstream religious traditions is essential for analyzing the intellectual and social ferment of the second urbanization. These diverse movements collectively shaped the spiritual landscape of ancient India, offering competing paths to individual liberation.

227. (C) Later Vedic Period
The development of a territorial state structure, known as the Janapada, is a defining feature of the Later Vedic period. As Indo-Aryan groups transitioned from a semi-nomadic pastoral life to settled agrarian existence, political identity shifted toward the control of specific regions. This period also saw the emergence of a more powerful hereditary monarchy and rudimentary

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administrative systems. These changes reflect the increasing political complexity and social organization that laid the essential foundations for the larger and more formalized state systems of the subsequent Mahajanapada period. Tracking this transition is vital for understanding the long-term evolution of authority in ancient India.

228. (D) 3, 2, 1, 4
Establishing the correct chronological order of technological and political milestones is fundamental for analyzing the progression of Indian civilization. The sequence began with the Neolithic use of polished stone axes, followed by the development of bronze technology in the Harappan civilization. Subsequently, iron technology was first introduced in the Gangetic plain during the Vedic period, which eventually facilitated the rise of the Mahajanapadas and the second urbanization. Following this timeline allows historians to analyze how technological advancements in materials directly influenced the social and political transformations that shaped the various eras of ancient subcontinental history.

229. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Understanding ancient history requires correctly matching key concepts with their respective historical periods and cultures. The first urbanization is represented by the Indus/Harappa civilization, while the second urbanization occurred during the Mahajanapada period. The introduction of iron technology is associated with the Later Vedic period, and the revolutionary transition to food production defines the Neolithic phase. Recognizing these associations is essential for tracing the long-term progression of technological and social complexity in the Indian subcontinent. These milestones mark the fundamental transitions from early settled life to the development of sophisticated urban and state systems across several centuries.

230. (B) Performance of large public sacrifices as described in the Vedas.
While archaeological evidence suggests several Harappan religious practices, such as the worship of a mother goddess and a proto-Shiva figure, there is no evidence for the large public sacrifices central to later Vedic religion. Vedic rituals were described in specific texts composed long after the decline of the Indus Civilization. Harappan religion appears to have been more focused on household shrines, tree and animal veneration, and the ritual use of water. Correctly distinguishing between these two distinct religious traditions is essential for accurately reconstructing the separate cultural identities and practices of the subcontinent's early urban and pastoral phases.

231. (C) a, b, c, and d
Literary sources for ancient Indian history are diverse, including religious and secular works from both indigenous and foreign origins. These texts offer valuable insights into past beliefs and conditions, with indigenous works further divided into primary and secondary categories. Even myths and legends provide cultural context, though they require critical analysis. However, it is essential to recognize that no literary source is 100% accurate, as all are influenced by their specific perspectives and purposes. Understanding these classifications and their inherent biases is fundamental for evaluating the reliability of written records in reconstructing a balanced picture of ancient history.

232. (A) Adaptive strategies, regional migration patterns, and ancient networks of exchange.
The distribution of Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites across India provides vital information for understanding how early communities adapted to diverse ecological regions. Mapping these settlements helps researchers track regional migration patterns and identify ancient networks of exchange for resources like stone and copper. Analysis of site locations and tool types reveals how these societies utilized their local environments to sustain a mixed economy of agriculture and herding. This geographical perspective is essential for reconstructing the complex regional interconnections and social organization that defined the transitional phases preceding the rise of more centralized and urbanized cultures.

233. (C) Evidence of systematic warfare or sudden cultural displacement is notably absent.
The classical 'Aryan Invasion Theory' has been significantly challenged by modern archaeology because evidence of large-scale systematic

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warfare or sudden, catastrophic cultural displacement is notably absent from the physical record. Instead, archaeological findings suggest a gradual transition and de-urbanization process rather than a violent replacement of one group by another. While cultural shifts occurred, they are now more commonly viewed as the result of gradual migration and regional adaptation influenced by environmental changes. Recognizing this lack of military evidence has led to a more nuanced understanding of the transitions between the Harappan and Vedic phases of ancient Indian history.

234. (A) To act as a council of select elders, advising the king and performing judicial functions.
The Sabha was a vital political institution during the Early Vedic period, acting as a council of select elders or elite members of the tribe. Its primary role was to advise the Rajan, or chieftain, and to perform important judicial functions in resolving communal disputes. Unlike the broader Samiti, the Sabha represented the more influential and experienced sections of tribal society, providing a check on the leader's authority. This institution highlights the participative and council-based nature of early Vedic governance, where collective wisdom and traditional norms played a significant role in managing tribal affairs and maintaining order.

235. (D) Iron tools were vastly more efficient for clearing heavy forests and soil.
Iron technology was transformative for the Gangetic valley because iron tools provided the necessary strength and durability to clear the region's dense forests and effectively plow its heavy, fertile soil. This technological shift led to a massive expansion of agricultural land and a significant increase in productivity. The resulting agricultural surplus was essential for supporting growing populations and the eventual formation of territorial states. Understanding the specific technical advantages of iron over bronze or stone is fundamental for analyzing the socio-economic changes that facilitated the move toward the complex urban and political systems of the second urbanization.

236. (B) The shift from a primarily hunter-gatherer economy to one based on food production (agriculture and animal husbandry).
The fundamental difference between the Neolithic phase and the preceding Mesolithic era is the revolutionary shift from a hunter-gatherer existence to food production through agriculture and animal domestication. This change allowed human communities to produce a predictable food supply, which supported the establishment of permanent village settlements. While Mesolithic groups used smaller stone tools (microliths) for hunting, Neolithic people developed polished tools for farming and pottery for storage. This transition provided the foundational stability necessary for population growth and social complexity, marking a pivotal milestone in the long-term development of human civilization and subsistence strategies.

237. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Numismatics is a distinct and specialized field of study focused on ancient coins, rather than being a sub-branch of epigraphy, which deals with inscriptions. While both are archaeological in nature, numismatics provides unique insights into economic history, trade routes, metallurgy, and political boundaries through the analysis of coinage. Coins offer objective data on the financial health and administrative reach of various states that is separate from the information found in inscriptions. Correctly identifying numismatics as a separate field is fundamental for effectively utilizing diverse material remains to reconstruct and cross-reference a comprehensive and validated picture of the ancient past.

238. (D) The lack of deciphered script necessitates total reliance on material remains.
The polity of the Harappan civilization is a subject of ongoing scholarly debate primarily because their pictographic script has not been deciphered. Without readable written records, researchers cannot definitively identify the specific titles, laws, or political structures of the civilization. Instead, they must rely entirely on interpretations of material remains like town planning, seals, and standardized artifacts. This leads to various competing hypotheses regarding whether the civilization was ruled by a king, a council, or a priestly class. Deciphering the script remains the most critical requirement for fully uncovering the nature of Harappan governance and its administrative policies.

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239. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The emergence of Mahajanapadas marked the formation of large territorial states in Northern India around the sixth century BCE. This significant political transformation was facilitated by the agricultural surplus generated in the fertile Gangetic plains through the adoption of iron technology. This economic foundation supported population growth and the development of centralized administrations and professional armies. Both the assertion and the reason are accurate, highlighting how technological, economic, and social consolidation collectively enabled the transition from smaller tribal units to the powerful monarchical and republican states that defined the resurgence of urban and political life in ancient India.

240. (B) Numismatics - study of ancient coins.
Reconstructing ancient history requires correctly matching specialized disciplines with their specific subject matter. Numismatics is the scientific study of ancient coins, providing data on economics and metallurgy. In contrast, epigraphy focuses on inscriptions, and archaeology broadly deals with material remains rather than just literary analysis. Correctly identifying these roles is essential for effectively utilizing different types of evidence. For example, coins offer objective data on trade and dynastic chronology, while inscriptions offer direct administrative edicts. Understanding these distinctions ensures that historical research is grounded in the appropriate use of diverse and specialized archaeological and literary sources.

241. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
The transition between the Rig Vedic and Later Vedic periods involved significant socio-economic and political transformations across several centuries. The initial pastoral economy gave way to a settled agrarian society as groups expanded into the Gangetic plains. Simultaneously, the flexible social divisions of the early period became a rigid, birth-based Varna system. Political power also shifted, with the king's authority growing as tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti lost their traditional influence. Recognizing these interrelated changes collectively is essential for understanding the long-term evolution of Indo-Aryan society from decentralized tribal groups to more complex and stratified territorial state systems.

242. (A) Both stone and copper/bronze tools were used.
The Chalcolithic phase refers to a transitional historical period characterized by the simultaneous use of stone and metal technology, specifically copper and its alloys like bronze. Unlike the preceding Neolithic period, which relied exclusively on stone, Chalcolithic communities introduced metallurgy while continuing to use traditional stone tools for various daily and agricultural tasks. This dual technology allowed for greater technical complexity and specialization in artisanal production. Identifying these mixed material assemblages helps archaeologists define this phase and understand the regional technological progress made by diverse prehistoric societies before the widespread adoption of iron technology.

243. (C) Provide a contemporary, albeit external, perspective on events and conditions.
The primary value of foreign accounts lies in their ability to provide a contemporary external perspective on ancient Indian society, politics, and culture. Observers like Megasthenes or Xuanzang often recorded details about administrative practices, social customs, and geography that indigenous authors, who prioritized different themes, may have omitted. While these records must be used critically to identify potential biases or misunderstandings, they offer a vital cross-reference for validating and dating events described in Indian religious and secular literature. Utilizing these diverse viewpoints is essential for developing a more comprehensive, balanced, and validated understanding of historical periods across different eras.

244. (D) Vedic period, especially its later phase.
The emergence of the Varna system as a hierarchical social structure is a defining feature of the Vedic period, particularly in its later phase. This framework institutionalized social stratification by dividing society into four classes—Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—based on birth. While initial social roles were more fluid, the Later Vedic period saw

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these categories become rigid and hereditary, determining social status and ritual duties for centuries. Analyzing the rise of Varna is essential for understanding the long-term development of Indian social organization and the development of the complex hierarchical structures that deeply influenced subcontinental religious and cultural history.

245. (C) The subcontinent's first experiment with urbanism.
The decline of the Indus Civilization represents the end of the Indian subcontinent's first successful experiment with urbanism. This era of planned cities, sophisticated drainage systems, and extensive trade networks was followed by a long period of de-urbanization where settlements transformed into decentralized, rural Chalcolithic cultures. For several centuries, the region lacked the complex social and political organization that characterized Harappan life. This urban tradition was only renewed with the rise of the second urbanization in the Gangetic valley around the sixth century BCE, highlighting the significant historical break that occurred after the collapse of the Indus urban system.

246. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Understanding ancient history requires correctly matching key archaeological evidence with its specific site or historical period. The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro reflects Harappan ritual practices, while the earliest ploughed field is found at Kalibangan. Lothal is distinguished by its artificial dockyard, and the polished stone axe is a characteristic tool of the Neolithic period. Identifying these associations is essential for reconstructing the technological achievements and cultural traditions of diverse phases of subcontinental civilization. These specific material remains provide direct evidence for analyzing the environmental adaptations, commercial networks, and social organizations that shaped the development of early Indian societies over several centuries.

247. (D) Later Vedic and subsequent periods
The introduction and widespread use of iron technology is most closely associated with the material culture of the Later Vedic and subsequent historical periods. Iron tools and weapons were significantly more durable and effective than those made of bronze or stone, enabling more efficient forest clearance and deep cultivation in the Gangetic basin. This technological shift facilitated agricultural surplus, population growth, and the rise of larger territorial states during the second urbanization. Recognizing this transition is fundamental for understanding the socio-economic and political transformations that led from tribal chiefdoms to the complex urban and state systems that defined ancient Indian history from the first millennium BCE onward.

248. (A) Formation of large, territorial states, both monarchical and republican.
The most significant feature of the Mahajanapada period was the formation of sixteen large territorial states, encompassing both monarchical and republican systems of governance. This era marked a departure from smaller tribal units toward organized polities with centralized administrations, established capitals, and professional armies. The transition was driven by agricultural surpluses and the resurgence of urban life in the Gangetic valley. Understanding the rise of these competing power centers is essential for tracing the political consolidation and social complexity that eventually led to the emergence of the first large empires in the Indian subcontinent's history during the sixth century BCE.

249. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Our understanding of Harappan religion is not based on deciphered texts but on interpretations of archaeological evidence such as seals, figurines, and structures. The Indus script remains undeciphered, meaning no religious texts from this civilization can be read. Instead, researchers study artifacts like the Great Bath and representations of deities like the proto-Shiva to infer spiritual beliefs and practices. Recognizing this total reliance on material remains is essential for understanding the limitations and the evidence-based hypotheses that define our current knowledge of Harappan religious life. While the first statement is incorrect, the second accurately identifies the primary source of historical information for this phase.

250. (A) The Gangetic plains.

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Heterodox movements such as Buddhism and Jainism primarily flourished within the middle Gangetic plains during the sixth century BCE. This geographical region became the center of intellectual ferment as new social classes sought spiritual alternatives to traditional Brahmanical rituals. The fertile plains provided the economic stability required to support monastic communities and urban philosophical debates. These sects eventually spread across the subcontinent, deeply influencing the religious history. Understanding this regional focus is essential for analyzing the relationship between the second urbanization and the rise of new spiritual ideas that challenged established social and ritual hierarchies in ancient Indian history.

251. (B) Exploration is a preliminary step that precedes the systematic process of excavation.
Archaeological research begins with exploration, which serves as a preliminary survey to identify potential sites. This stage utilizes geographical analysis and surface surveys to locate areas of historical interest. Once identified, the process moves to excavation, which involves a systematic and scientific unearthing of material remains to provide tangible evidence of past human activities during ancient times.

252. (A) The religious beliefs of the common populace.
The study of ancient coinage provides vital information regarding the economic status and trade networks of a society. It also helps historians establish the chronological order of ruling dynasties and determine the geographical extent of their power through the distribution of coins. However, this specialized discipline does not typically offer direct or detailed insights into the religious practices of common people.

253. (C) To create a coherent historical framework for contextualizing material culture.
Establishing accurate chronologies through scientific dating techniques is a fundamental requirement in archaeology. Without precise dates, it is difficult to contextualize findings or understand the sequence of cultural developments over time. These methods allow researchers to place tools, settlement patterns, and other material remains into a coherent historical framework, ensuring a logical and accurate narrative of the past.

254. (D) It provides direct textual evidence for aspects of past political and social life.
The study of inscriptions is essential for reconstructing ancient history as it provides direct written evidence from the period under investigation. These records often contain political proclamations, donative details, and descriptions of social customs. By analyzing these texts, historians gain primary insights into the political and social structures of a civilization that material remains alone might not fully reveal.

255. (C) Multi-faceted, involving exploration, excavation, and specialized analyses.
Reconstructing historical events from archaeological evidence is a complex and multi-faceted endeavor. It requires integrating data from preliminary explorations, systematic excavations, and specialized scientific analyses. By combining insights from various disciplines such as epigraphy and numismatics with dating techniques, historians can develop a comprehensive understanding of ancient societies, rather than relying on a single, isolated method of investigation.

256. (B) Their allegorical nature and uncertain dating.
Utilizing religious texts for historical reconstruction presents specific difficulties because these works often rely on myths and allegories. While they contain significant cultural information, their symbolic nature makes extracting factual events challenging. Furthermore, the lack of certain dates for many early religious manuscripts complicates the task of establishing a firm timeline for the events and social conditions described.

257. (D) Provide an external viewpoint that can be compared with local sources.
Chroniclers from external cultures provide a valuable outside perspective that can either validate or contradict indigenous records. These accounts offer different viewpoints on local customs, political events, and social structures. Comparing these foreign narratives with local literary sources and archaeological data allows historians to build a more comprehensive and balanced understanding of a particular historical period or society.

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258. (A) A critical and comparative analysis of multiple source types is essential.
Effective historical reconstruction requires a critical evaluation of various types of evidence. Scholars must compare different literary accounts, including indigenous and foreign works, to identify biases and inconsistencies. This comparative analysis is further strengthened by weighing written records against material archaeological findings. Such a balanced approach ensures that the resulting historical narrative is accurate, well-supported, and nuanced.

259. (C) All forms of early indigenous literature, both religious and secular.
Establishing a precise chronological timeline is a significant hurdle when dealing with early indigenous writings. This issue affects both religious texts, like myths, and secular works. Because many of these documents lack clear dates of composition or have undergone later changes, it is difficult to determine exactly when the events or social conditions they portray actually occurred.

260. (A) Intended purpose and narrative style.
Religious and secular texts differ primarily in their intended goals and how they tell stories. Religious literature often uses allegory and mythology to convey spiritual truths or cultural values. In contrast, secular works tend to be more direct, although they are still influenced by the specific motivations of their authors and the interests of the patrons who supported them.

261. (D) The transition from a nomadic lifestyle to food production.
The most significant transformation during the Neolithic period was the transition from a nomadic foraging existence to a settled lifestyle based on food production. This shift involved the beginnings of agriculture and the domestication of animals. These developments allowed human communities to remain in fixed locations, leading directly to the establishment of the first permanent village settlements in history.

262. (B) Access to resources necessary for early agriculture.
The location of early settled communities was largely determined by the physical environment. Communities chose areas that were conducive to farming, specifically those with easy access to water sources and fertile soil. Because early agricultural techniques were rudimentary, proximity to these vital natural resources was essential for the survival and success of these new food-producing societies and settlements.

263. (C) The exchange of essential and non-local materials between communities.
During the Neolithic era, settled communities engaged in limited exchange networks to acquire necessary or valued items not available in their own areas. This was not a large-scale commercial trade system but rather a movement of specific materials like stone for tools or ornamental shells. These interactions signify the start of inter-regional contact and the growth of social complexity.

264. (D) More specialized for agricultural tasks and often polished.
Technological advancement in the Neolithic phase is evidenced by the production of specialized tools made of stone. Unlike earlier periods, these implements were often polished and specifically designed for agricultural tasks such as clearing land, tilling soil, and harvesting crops. This specialization reflects the broader shift toward a sedentary lifestyle and the importance of efficient food production systems.

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265. (A) The beginning of agriculture and animal domestication.
The establishment of permanent settlements was a direct outcome of humans learning to produce their own food. By domesticating animals and cultivating crops, people were no longer required to move constantly in search of wild resources. This transition anchored communities to specific territories, fostering the growth of village life and allowing for the development of more complex social structures.

266. (B) The concurrent use of copper and stone for making tools.
The Chalcolithic period, also known as the Copper-Stone Age, is defined by the simultaneous use of copper and stone for making implements. While copper technology was a major advance, stone tools remained in widespread use for various tasks. This transition period highlights the

gradual introduction of metallurgy into societies that were still heavily reliant on traditional stone-working techniques.

267. (B) The necessity of procuring copper ore from specific regions.
The growth of more intricate exchange networks during the Chalcolithic phase was largely driven by the requirement for copper. Since copper ore was only available in specific geographic regions, agrarian communities had to establish trade links with ore-rich areas. This necessity stimulated inter-regional contact, leading to the movement of goods, technology, and cultural practices across different zones.

268. (A) The use of stone implements continued to be widespread alongside copper ones.
During the Copper-Stone Age, the introduction of metal did not immediately lead to the abandonment of older technologies. Stone implements continued to be commonly used for everyday tasks alongside the newer copper tools. Copper was initially utilized for specialized items like weapons and ornaments, but its presence did not make stone tools obsolete during this transitional historical phase.

269. (C) The emergence of distinct regional pottery and architecture.
As human populations moved into new environmental zones during the Chalcolithic era, they developed unique local identities. This is archaeologically visible through the appearance of distinct pottery styles and varying architectural patterns in different regions. These variations indicate that while communities shared basic technologies, they were also developing regional cultural characteristics as they adapted to different environmental conditions.

270. (D) An increase in social stratification and regional integration.
The expansion of trade networks to acquire copper and other materials had profound effects on the structure of society. These interactions encouraged the sharing of ideas and technologies, leading to greater regional integration. Additionally, the control over rare resources and the production of metal goods contributed to an increase in social stratification and the development of hierarchies within communities.

271. (C) The characteristic division of major sites into a citadel and a lower town.
A key characteristic of the urban centers in the Indus Civilization was their organized layout. Major sites were systematically divided into two distinct sections: a fortified citadel, usually located on higher ground, and an expansive lower town. This purposeful city planning indicates the existence of an effective administrative authority capable of managing large-scale construction and organizing the urban environment.

272. (B) Highly organized urban planning and complex settlement hierarchy.
The Indus Civilization is considered the first instance of urbanization in the region due to its sophisticated city structures. It featured advanced planning, standardized materials, and a clear hierarchy of settlements ranging from large cities to smaller villages. This organized system of living, supported by a complex economy, distinguishes it from earlier, less integrated cultures in the Indian subcontinent.

273. (D) A high degree of standardization and administrative integration.
The remarkable consistency found in brick sizes, weights, and measures across vast distances is a hallmark of the Harappan culture. This level of uniformity suggests the presence of a strong, centralized administrative system. Such standardization would have been essential for facilitating trade, managing large construction projects, and ensuring a cohesive economic and social structure across the entire civilization.

274. (A) It is considered an indigenous evolution from earlier regional cultures.
Modern historical understanding views the Indus Civilization as a local development that grew out of earlier agricultural cultures in the region. Rather than being the result of foreign colonization or sudden appearance, it evolved gradually as these regional groups developed more complex social and economic systems. This indigenous growth eventually led to the mature urban phase characterized by cities.

275. (C) Vast and larger than its contemporary civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia.
The Harappan Civilization covered an immense area that included parts of modern-day Pakistan

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and western India. Its total geographical footprint was significantly larger than those of its contemporary civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia. This vast reach required extensive networks for communication and trade, as well as a highly organized system of administration to maintain cultural and economic unity.

276. (A) A complex society with economic stratification and specialized skills.
The production of diverse items like intricate pottery, seals, and metalwork demonstrates that many people in Harappan society were skilled artisans rather than farmers. This division of labor suggests a complex and stratified economy where different groups performed specialized tasks. Such craft expertise indicates a level of social organization capable of supporting non-agricultural workers through surplus food production.

277. (D) Artefacts like terracotta figurines and seal depictions.
In the absence of large temple buildings or deciphered texts, religious beliefs are interpreted through material remains. Terracotta figurines representing female deities suggest the practice of fertility worship, while images on seals, such as those resembling a proto-Shiva figure, point to other spiritual elements. These artefacts provide the primary clues for understanding the complex belief systems of the people.

278. (B) A combination of factors including climate change and trade disruption.
The collapse of the Indus Civilization was likely caused by several overlapping factors rather than a single event. Changes in the environment, such as shifting river courses or climatic fluctuations, played a significant role. Additionally, the breakdown of vital trade networks with regions like Mesopotamia severely damaged the urban economy, leading to the gradual disintegration of their complex social structure.

279. (C) The uniformity in material culture points towards an effective administrative system.
While the exact form of government is still debated, the widespread uniformity in city layouts and material culture strongly suggests an integrated political system. The ability to maintain standardized weights and architectural styles across a vast area implies a powerful authority. This administration likely managed the complex urban infrastructure and economic activities that were central to the civilization's overall survival.

280. (D) The overall collapse of the urban economy and civilization.
Robust trade networks, both internal and external, were essential for the prosperity of the Indus cities. These connections provided access to resources and markets that sustained the urban population and specialized artisans. When these networks were disrupted, the economic foundation of the cities was weakened, contributing significantly to the overall decline and eventual collapse of the Harappan urban system.

281. (A) Tribal chieftainships with checks on the king's power.
During the early Vedic period, political power was organized around the tribe. The king, or Rajan, functioned as a tribal leader whose primary duties were military defense and protection. His authority was not absolute, as it was monitored and limited by popular assemblies of the tribe, reflecting a system where the leader was held accountable to his community.

282. (B) Popular assemblies that limited the chieftain's authority.
The Sabha and Samiti were crucial assemblies that represented the interests of the tribe in early Vedic governance. The Sabha likely served as a council of elders, while the Samiti was a larger gathering of the entire community. These bodies played a vital role in checking the power of the king, ensuring that decisions had a level of popular participation.

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283. (B) It was based on kinship, and the Varna system was not yet fully solidified.
Social organization in the early Vedic era was primarily based on family and tribal ties. While certain social distinctions existed, they were relatively fluid compared to later periods. The rigid and hierarchical Varna system had not yet been fully established, and people's primary identity remained with their specific tribe, known as the jana, rather than a fixed caste.

284. (A) Origins and identity of the people associated with the Vedic culture.
The Aryan debate is a central topic in ancient Indian history focusing on the origins of the individuals who created the Vedic texts. This scholarly discussion examines whether these people were indigenous to the region or migrated from elsewhere. It involves analyzing linguistic, archaeological, and literary evidence to understand the cultural and ethnic identity of the early Vedic society.

285. (C) A system of tribal organization rather than a territorial state.
The concept of the state in the early Vedic period was not based on fixed territorial borders. Instead, it was a system centered on the tribe as a social unit. The king's role was to lead the people in battle and protect the group's interests, rather than to govern a specific geographic area with a permanent and established administrative bureaucracy.

286. (D) The shift from tribal chieftainships to more powerful territorial kingdoms.
The later Vedic period saw a transition from tribal organization to more formal territorial states. Kings gained significantly more power and established permanent control over specific regions. This shift was accompanied by elaborate rituals designed to showcase the monarch's sovereignty and imperial status, moving away from the earlier system where authority was shared more equally with various tribal assemblies.

287. (C) The expansion of agriculture into the forested Gangetic plains.
The introduction of iron was a transformative event for later Vedic society. Iron tools, such as axes and ploughshares, allowed people to clear the thick forests of the Gangetic plains and cultivate the land more effectively. This technological advance led to a massive expansion of agriculture, which provided the surplus necessary to support larger populations and more complex states.

288. (B) A hierarchical and more rigid form of social stratification.
During the later Vedic period, the Varna system became more rigid and hierarchical. Society was divided into four distinct groups—Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras—each with specific duties and social statuses. This structure was far less flexible than the tribal organization of the earlier era, creating a permanent social order that defined an individual's place within the community.

289. (D) They indicate the presence of an iron-using, socially stratified culture in the South.
Megaliths are large stone monuments found in South India, often associated with elaborate burial practices. These archaeological sites contain iron tools and pottery, proving that a sophisticated, iron-using society existed in the peninsula during the later Vedic period. The presence of varied grave goods also suggests that these communities were socially stratified, with differences in wealth or status.

290. (A) The ability to support a more complex state structure.
Increased agricultural production, made possible by iron technology, created a surplus that went beyond the immediate needs of the farmers. This extra food could be used to support non-agricultural groups, such as soldiers, administrators, and priests. This economic foundation allowed for the growth of a more complex state apparatus and the centralization of power in newly emerging territorial kingdoms.

291. (C) Monarchies had hereditary rulers, while republics were governed by assemblies.
The Mahajanapadas followed two different types of political organization. Monarchies were ruled by kings who inherited their positions and held centralized power. In contrast, republican states, or gansanghas, were governed by assemblies of clan heads. In these republics, collective decision-making through council discussions was the norm, rather than the rule of a single, hereditary, and absolute monarch.

292. (A) More complex and organized territorial states.
The emergence of the Mahajanapadas marked a significant evolution in Indian political history. It represented a shift from smaller tribal units toward the formation of large, organized territorial states with more complex government structures. These polities were capable of

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managing larger populations and territories, signaling a move toward more sophisticated methods of administration and political control in the region.

293. (D) Monarchical states with hereditary kings.
Magadha and Kosala are prominent examples of monarchical Mahajanapadas. In these states, power was concentrated in the hands of a king, and the right to rule was passed down through families. These kingdoms were known for their expansionist policies, as they frequently engaged in warfare and diplomacy to increase their territory and influence over neighboring regional states.

294. (B) It was characterized by competition and expansionist policies, especially by monarchies.
The period of the Mahajanapadas was characterized by intense political competition. Monarchical states, in particular, sought to expand their borders by absorbing weaker neighbors. This environment of conflict and expansion was central to the process of state formation, as stronger polities emerged through the conquest of others, leading to the creation of larger and more powerful imperial structures.

295. (C) The republican or oligarchic states.
The term 'ganasanghas' refers to the republican or oligarchic states of the sixth century BCE. Unlike monarchies, these polities were not ruled by a single king but by a group of leaders from dominant clans. Decisions were reached through debate and voting in assemblies, showing a diverse range of political thought and practice alongside the more common monarchical systems.

296. (D) Re-emergence of towns and cities, particularly in the Gangetic plain.
The Second Urbanization refers to a period when towns and cities began to flourish again in India, particularly in the fertile Gangetic plain. This followed the long period after the decline of the Indus Civilization. This re-emergence of urban life was characterized by a surge in population, specialized crafts, and the development of complex political and economic systems.

297. (A) A significant agricultural surplus supporting non-farmers.
The growth of cities was primarily driven by advancements in agriculture, specifically the use of iron technology. These improvements allowed farmers to produce far more food than they consumed. This agricultural surplus was essential for sustaining an urban population of merchants, artisans, and officials who did not produce their own food but provided other vital services to society.

298. (B) Intertwined with the social tensions created by the rigid Varna system.
New religious movements like Jainism and Buddhism arose during a time of significant social change. They were closely connected to the tensions caused by the rigid Varna system, which placed Brahmins at the top. These sects offered spiritual alternatives that challenged traditional Vedic authority, appealing to those who felt marginalized by the existing social, economic, and ritual hierarchies.

299. (B) They were hubs for trade, craft production, and administration.
The cities that emerged during the Second Urbanization served as vital centers for various non-agricultural activities. They became hubs for the production of specialized crafts and were central to both internal and external trade. Additionally, these urban areas acted as administrative headquarters for the expanding territorial states, facilitating the management of large-scale economic and political affairs.

300. (A) Kshatriyas and Vaishyas who had economic power but lower ritual status than Brahmins.
Heterodox religions often found strong support among the Kshatriya and Vaishya groups. While these classes had gained significant economic and political power during the period of urbanization, they still occupied a lower position than Brahmins in the traditional ritual hierarchy. These new faiths provided a way to express spiritual and social independence from the dominant Brahmanical religious system.

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CHAPTER 02

From State to Empire

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1. Which of the following was a primary factor contributing to the rise of the Magadhan empire?
(A) A powerful naval fleet that dominated trade across the Bay of Bengal.
(B) Strategic location with rich iron ore deposits and fertile plains.
(C) Early adoption of a democratic and representative form of government.
(D) Persistent cultural and linguistic isolation from other mahajanapadas.

2. The term 'Adhyakshas' in Mauryan administration referred to which of the following?
(A) Superintendents overseeing various economic and civil departments.
(B) Provincial governors who were typically selected from royal princes.
(C) District officials primarily responsible for land revenue collection.
(D) Military commanders leading the different wings of the royal army.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the effects of Alexander's invasion of India:
1. It led to the establishment of direct contact between India and Greec(E)
2. It paved the way for the political unification of North India under the Mauryas.
3. It introduced a new style of coinage which was widely adopted by Indian rulers.
4. It resulted in the destruction of the Magadhan capital, Pataliputr(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

4. Which of the following statements about Mauryan society is incorrect?
(A) Megasthenes mentioned a seven-fold division of society.
(B) Slavery existed, as mentioned by Kautilya in the Arthashastra.
(C) The joint family system was a common feature of the era.
(D) The varna system was enforced with zero social mobility.

5. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Asoka's Dhamma was essentially a code of ethical conduct and not a new religion.
Reason (R) : The principles of Dhamma, such as respect for elders and ahimsa, were drawn from various existing religious and ethical traditions.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

6. The primary language used in the majority of Asokan edicts was:
(A) Sanskrit
(B) Prakrit
(C) Pali
(D) Greek

7. Which one of the following was NOT a major cause for the decline of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) The revival of Brahmanical reaction against Asoka's policies.
(B) Financial weakness due to vast expenditure on the military.
(C) The peaceful policy of Asoka which weakened the military.
(D) The rise of feudalism and the decentralization of power.

8. Match List I with List II regarding scripts used in Asokan edicts and their geographical prevalence.
List I: (Script)
P. Brahmi
Q. Kharoshthi
R. Aramaic
S. Greek
List II: (Region)
1. Northwestern part of the empire
2. Kandahar region (Afghanistan)
3. Across the majority of the empire
4. Westernmost border areas
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

9. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Mauryan state exercised significant control over the economy, including agriculture, trade, and crafts.
Statement II : The Arthashastra mentions state-owned farms (Sita lands) managed by a superintendent (Sitadhyaksha).
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

10. What was the most significant effect of the Greek invasion under Alexander on the Indian subcontinent's political landscape?
(A) Weakened northwestern tribes, facilitating Mauryan expansion.
(B) Direct establishment of Greek rule over the Magadha region.
(C) Introduction of monarchy concepts to the republican Ganas.
(D) Major economic collapse throughout the Indus Valley region.

11. Regarding the Mauryan administration, consider the following statements:
1. The empire was divided into provinces, which were further subdivided into districts.
2. The 'Samaharta' was the chief of the espionage department.
3. The 'Sannidhata' was the chief treasury officer.
4. The judiciary was hierarchical, with courts at village, district, and central levels.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. The concept of 'Dhamma-mahamattas' appointed by Asoka was intended for what primary purpose?
(A) To collect special taxes for various royal religious activities.
(B) To propagate and supervise the implementation of Dhamma.
(C) To act as presiding judges in complex religious disputes.
(D) To lead specific military campaigns in the name of Dhamma.

13. Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. The Kalinga War
2. The death of Alexander the Great
3. The accession of Chandragupta Maurya
4. The beginning of Asoka's reign
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

14. The use of polished stone pillars is a characteristic feature of which artistic tradition?
(A) Gandhara Art
(B) Gupta Art
(C) Amaravati School
(D) Mauryan Art

15. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was a swift process that occurred immediately after Asoka's death.
Reason (R) : The vastness of the empire and the weakness of Asoka's successors made central control difficult to maintain.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

16. Which of the following is considered the most appropriate description of Asoka's Dhamma?
(A) A sectarian doctrine belonging solely to the Ajivika faith.
(B) A universal code of general social and ethical conduct.
(C) A political treatise regarding statecraft and governance.
(D) A set of monastic rules for Buddhist monks and nuns.

17. The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his commander-in-chief, who then established a new dynasty. Who was this commander?
(A) Vasudeva Kanva
(B) Pushyamitra Sunga
(C) Simuka Satavahana
(D) Agnimitra

18. Consider the following pairs related to Mauryan officials and their duties:
1. Rajukas: Administration of justice and land measurement
2. Yuktas: Subordinate officials in charge of the king's revenue
3. Gopa: In charge of a group of 5-10 villages
4. Sthanika: In charge of the city administration

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

19. Which script, written from right to left, was predominantly used in the northwestern regions of the Mauryan empire for Asokan edicts?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Aramaic
(C) Kharoshthi
(D) Greek

20. Match List I (Post-Mauryan Rulers) with List II (Associated Dynasties).
List I: (Post-Mauryan Rulers)
P. Menander
Q. Kanishka
R. Rudradaman I
S. Simuka
List II: (Associated Dynasties)
1. Saka-Ksatrapa
2. Satavahana
3. Indo-Greek
4. Kushana

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

21. The Sangam literature primarily provides information about the society, economy, and polity of which region?
(A) The Deccan plateau under the Satavahanas.
(B) The Gangetic delta under the Guptas.
(C) The deep south, comprising the Tamil country.
(D) The Indus valley region under the Kushanas.

22. The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism during the post-Mauryan period is characterized by which of the following key developments?
(A) Strict adherence to the original teachings of Buddha.
(B) Concept of Bodhisattva and deification of Buddha.
(C) Complete rejection of all idol worship and rituals.
(D) Exclusive use of the Pali language for scriptures.

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23. Consider the following scenario: An archaeologist discovers rock-cut caves in the Western Ghats. Inscriptions mention 'Gotamiputa Satakani' and a land grant to a monastery. To which dynasty would this king belong?
(A) Sunga
(B) Kushana
(C) Vakataka
(D) Satavahana

24. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic feature of the Gandhara School of Art?
(A) It was a purely indigenous style in themes

and form.
(B) Strong influence of Greco-Roman artistic traditions.
(C) The use of distinctive grey-blue schist stone.
(D) Depiction of Buddha with spiritual expressions.

25. Consider the following statements about trade during the period from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE:
1. India had a flourishing trade with the Roman Empir(E)
2. The discovery of the monsoon winds by Hippalus facilitated sea trad(E)
3. Exports from India included spices, textiles, and precious stones.
4. The balance of trade was heavily in favor of Rom(E)

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

26. The Hathigumpha inscription near Bhubaneswar provides a detailed account of the reign of which king?
(A) Kharavela
(B) Asoka
(C) Kanishka
(D) Gautamiputra Satakarni

27. The concept of 'Tinais' (eco-zones) is a unique feature described in which body of literature?
(A) Vedas
(B) Puranas
(C) Jataka tales
(D) Sangam literature

28. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Kushana period witnessed the emergence and flourishment of the Gandhara School of Art.
Reason (R) : Kanishka and his successors were great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism, which provided the primary themes for Gandhara artists.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

29. Which of the following statements correctly identifies a key difference between the Mathura and Gandhara schools of art?
(A) Gandhara depicted only Jains, while Mathura depicted Buddhists.
(B) Mathura followed Persian art, while Gandhara followed Egyptian.
(C) Mathura used red sandstone, while Gandhara used grey schist.
(D) Gandhara was indigenous, while Mathura had foreign influence.

30. The "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea", an important source for Indo-Roman trade, was written by:
(A) Pliny the Elder
(B) Megasthenes
(C) A known Roman senator
(D) An anonymous Greek sailor

31. Which of the following pairs of post-Mauryan powers and their capital cities is incorrectly matched?
(A) Indo-Greeks - Ujjain
(B) Sungas - Pataliputra / Vidisha
(C) Satavahanas - Pratishthana (Paithan)
(D) Kushanas - Purushapura (Peshawar)

32. Consider the following statements about South Indian society as reflected in Sangam literature:
1. Division of land into five 'tinais' or eco-zones.
2. The presence of a monarchical form of government.
3. The existence of vibrant port cities and foreign trad(E)
4. The dominance of the Sanskrit language in all literary works.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

33. King Kharavela, known from the Hathigumpha inscription, was a great patron of which religion?

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(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Ajivikism
(D) Shaivism

34. The Amaravati school of art, which flourished in the lower valleys of the Krishna and Godavari rivers, is primarily associated with which dynasty?
(A) The Satavahanas and later the Ikshvakus
(B) The Kushanas
(C) The Guptas
(D) The Cholas

35. Match List I (Literary Work/Concept) with List II (Associated Tradition).
List I: (Literary Work/Concept)
P. Milinda Panha
Q. Gaha Sattasai (Gathasaptasati)
R. Tolkappiyam
S. Divyavadana
List II: (Associated Tradition)
1. Sangam Literature (Tamil Grammar)
2. Prakrit literature of the Satavahanas
3. Buddhist text in Sanskrit
4. Dialogue between an Indo-Greek king and a Buddhist monk
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

36. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Sunga period witnessed a resurgence of Brahmanical traditions and the performance of Vedic sacrifices like the Ashvamedha.
Statement II : The Sungas were antagonistic towards all non-Brahmanical religions and actively persecuted Buddhists.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

37. The issuance of the first gold coins in India on a wide scale is attributed to which of the following dynasties?
(A) The Mauryas
(B) The Indo-Greeks
(C) The Kushanas
(D) The Guptas

38. The political structure in Sangam-era South India was primarily characterized by:
(A) A single, unified empire under one paramount ruler.
(B) A collection of chiefdoms and three major monarchies.
(C) A series of republican city-states governed by assemblies.
(D) A bureaucratic system modelled on the Mauryan administration.

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39. The most distinctive feature of the Amaravati school of art is:
(A) Portrayal of a muscular Buddha influenced by Roman art.
(B) Exclusive use of red sandstone without human figures.
(C) Depiction of Buddha only through symbols like the tree.
(D) Use of narrative art depicting dynamic compositions.

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Saka-Ksatrapas of Western India:
1. They were of Scythian origin.
2. Rudradaman I was their most famous ruler.
3. The Junagadh rock inscription is a key source for their history.
4. They were completely defeated and annexed by the Kushanas.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 2 and 4 only

41. Which post-Mauryan dynasty controlled the Deccan region and is known for its patronage of Prakrit literature and cave architecture?
(A) Sungas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Kanvas

42. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The period from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE was marked by brisk commercial activities between India and the Roman world.
Reason (R) : Pliny the Elder lamented the drain of Roman gold to India in exchange for luxury goods like spices and textiles.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

43. A key doctrinal shift marking the emergence of Mahayana Buddhism was:
(A) Focus on individual liberation as the ultimate goal.
(B) Rejection of the concepts of karma and rebirth.
(C) Strict prohibition of any form of image worship.
(D) Ideal of the Bodhisattva helping others to nirvana.

44. A historian is analyzing a coin that depicts a king on one side and a deity on the other, with a legend in a Greek-derived script. This coin is most likely to be an artifact of which period/ dynasty?
(A) Mauryan Empire
(B) Indo-Greeks
(C) Gupta Empire
(D) Sangam Age Pandyas

45. Arrange the following foreign groups in the chronological order of their arrival/ establishment of power in India:
1. Sakas
2. Kushanas
3. Indo-Greeks
4. Hunas
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 4, 2
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

46. The polity of the Gupta-Vakataka age is best described as:
(A) Highly centralized bureaucratic empire like the Mauryas.
(B) Collection of independent city-states with no authority.
(C) Military dictatorship with direct rule over territories.
(D) Decentralized system with a network of feudatories.

47. Consider the following statements about the agrarian economy during the Gupta period:
1. Land grants to Brahmanas and temples became a common practic(E)
2. The state had no role in providing irrigation facilities.
3. A variety of taxes on land produce, such as 'Bhaga' and 'Bali', were levie(D)
4. The use of the iron ploughshare was unknown in agricultur(E)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

48. The term 'Agrahara' in the context of Gupta land grants refers to:
(A) Land granted to military commanders for service.
(B) Land granted to Brahmanas, usually tax-free.
(C) Land granted to a specific village of craftsmen.
(D) Land set aside specifically for royal pastures.

49. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Gupta period is often called the 'Golden Age' of ancient India due to significant achievements in art, literature, and science.
Statement II : The Gupta society was completely egalitarian, with no caste distinctions or social hierarchies.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

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50. Match List I (Gupta Period Scholar) with List II (Field of Contribution).
List I: (Gupta Period Scholar)
P. Aryabhata
Q. Varahamihira
R. Sushruta
S. Kalidasa
List II: (Field of Contribution)
1. Medicine and Surgery
2. Literature and Drama
3. Astronomy and Mathematics
4. Astronomy and Astrology (Pancha-Siddhantika)
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

51. The emergence of Puranic Hinduism during the Gupta period is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The rise of the Bhakti tradition focusing on devotion.
(B) The worship of the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.
(C) The complete abandonment of Vedic rituals and sacrifices.
(D) The composition and compilation of the various Puranas.

52. The beginning of temple architecture in India, moving from cave shrines to free-standing structural temples, is a significant development of which period?
(A) Mauryan Period
(B) Post-Mauryan Period
(C) Age of Harsha
(D) Gupta-Vakataka Age

53. Which of the following is a key feature of Gupta coinage?
(A) Coins were exclusively made of copper and bronze.
(B) They were the first to bear portraits of kings in India.
(C) Gold Dinaras showed high artistic merit and purity.
(D) Legends were only in Prakrit and Kharoshthi script.

54. The development of the concept of zero and the decimal system are major contributions in the field of mathematics from which period?
(A) The Vedic Period
(B) The Gupta Period
(C) The Mauryan Period
(D) The Sangam Age

55. Regarding land rights and revenue in the Gupta Vakataka age, consider the following statements:
1. The king was considered the owner of all lan(D)
2. 'Uparikara' was a tax levied on temporary tenants.
3. Land grants created a class of intermediaries between the state and the peasantry.
4. The share of the state in the agricultural produce was fixed at one-tenth for all types of lan(D)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

56. The great Sanskrit poet and dramatist Kalidasa is generally associated with the court of which Gupta emperor?
(A) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
(B) Chandragupta I
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Kumaragupta I

57. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The practice of making land grants to Brahmanas and officials became widespread during the Gupta-Vakataka period.
Reason (R) : These grants helped in the extension of agriculture into new areas and the integration of tribal communities into the agrarian economy.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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58. Which of the following works is NOT attributed to the Gupta period?
(A) Ashtadhyayi by Panini
(B) Meghaduta by Kalidasa
(C) Mrichchhakatika by Shudraka
(D) Aryabhatiya by Aryabhata

59. The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a classic example of early temple architecture from which period?
(A) Kushana period
(B) Pala period
(C) Rashtrakuta period
(D) Gupta period

60. The polity under Harsha is best understood as a continuation and modification of which earlier system?
(A) Highly centralized Mauryan model.
(B) Feudal-federal structure of the Guptas.
(C) Republican traditions of Ganasanghas.
(D) Tribal chiefdom system of Sangam age.

61. Which Chinese pilgrim visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana and left a detailed account of his times?
(A) Fa-Hien
(B) I-Tsing
(C) Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)
(D) Wang Xuance

62. Consider the following statements about society during the Gupta age:
1. The practice of untouchability became more pronounce(D)
2. The position of women improved significantly, with complete freedom in all spheres.
3. The caste system became more rigid and proliferated into numerous sub-castes.
4. The first evidence for the practice of Sati appears in an inscription from this perio(D)

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

63. The Salankayanas and Visnukundins were regional powers that ruled in which part of India?
(A) Andhradesa
(B) Malwa region
(C) Kalinga region
(D) Western Deccan

64. Harsha's religious policy can be described as:
(A) Exclusively devoted to Shaivism and hostile to others.
(B) Patron of Buddhism, but tolerant of other sects.
(C) Staunch follower of Jainism promoting its teachings.
(D) Promoter of a new syncretic religion for all faiths.

65. Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (Region of Influence).
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Vakatakas
Q. Harsha's Empire
R. Visnukundins
S. Sungas
List II: (Region of Influence)
1. Northern India (Kanauj as capital)
2. Deccan (contemporary to Guptas)
3. Andhradesa
4. Magadha and Central India

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

66. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Visnukundins were known for their patronage of Vedic Brahmanism and the performance of sacrifices like Ashvamedha.
Statement II : The Visnukundins were also responsible for carving some of the earliest and finest cave temples at Undavalli and Mogalrajapuram in Andhradesa.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

67. Harsha's administration was characterized by:
(A) A strong, centrally paid bureaucracy.
(B) Abolition of all feudal titles and kings.

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(C) Tendency to pay officials with land grants.
(D) Division into self-governing village republics.

68. The Salankayanas, who ruled in the coastal Andhra region between the Krishna and Godavari rivers, had their capital at:
(A) Amaravati
(B) Pratishthana
(C) Kanchi
(D) Vengi

69. Which of the following is NOT a play written by Emperor Harsha?
(A) Ratnavali
(B) Nagananda
(C) Mudrarakshasa
(D) Priyadarsika

70. Consider the following statements regarding the reign of Harshavardhana:
1. The transfer of the capital from Thanesar to Kanauj.
2. The convening of a grand religious assembly at Kanauj.
3. The defeat of Pulakesin II, the Chalukya king.
4. The authorship of the biography 'Harshacharita'.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1 and 3 only

71. The monolithic lion capital of Sarnath, which was adopted as the National Emblem of India, is a prime example of the art of which period?
(A) Gupta
(B) Kushana
(C) Sunga
(D) Mauryan

72. A key feature of Mauryan polity was the presence of an extensive espionage system. What term did the Arthashastra use for spies?
(A) Gudhapurushas
(B) Rajukas
(C) Amatyas
(D) Mahamattas

73. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Greek invasion under Alexander the Great had a lasting impact on Indian astronomy and art.
Reason (R) : The Gandhara school of art, with its Greco-Roman features, and the introduction of certain astronomical concepts reflect this influence.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

74. The concept of 'Vishti' mentioned in Mauryan and post-Mauryan inscriptions refers to:
(A) Forced labour or labour tax.
(B) Paid labour for royal projects.
(C) A tax on imported goods.
(D) A religious pilgrimage tax.

75. Which Asokan edict is famously known as the Queen's Edict?
(A) The Minor Rock Edict at Bairat.
(B) The Major Rock Edict XIII.
(C) The Rummindei Pillar Inscription.
(D) The Pillar Edict at Allahabad-Kosam.

76. The decline of the Mauryan empire created a political vacuum in the north-west, which was subsequently filled by:
(A) The Satavahanas
(B) The Indo-Greeks
(C) The Guptas
(D) The Cheras

77. The term 'Puranic Hinduism' signifies a shift in religious practice towards:
(A) Exclusive performance of complex Vedic yajnas.
(B) Atheistic philosophies similar to Charvaka.
(C) Devotion and image worship of Vishnu and Shiva.
(D) Monastic life as the only path to salvation.

78. Consider the following statements about the Satavahana dynasty:
1. They are identified with the 'Andhras'

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mentioned in the Puranas.
2. Their empire served as a bridge between North and South Indi(A)
3. They issued coins with bilingual legends in Prakrit and a Dravidian languag(E)
4. Gautamiputra Satakarni was their most powerful ruler.
5. They were succeeded by the Guptas in the Deccan.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 4 and 5

79. If a trader in the 1st century CE wanted to sail from the port of Barygaza (Bharuch) to the Roman Empire, what crucial natural phenomenon would they need to understand to facilitate their journey across the Arabian Sea?
(A) The timing of the monsoon winds.
(B) The patterns of coastal currents.
(C) The phases of the moon for navigation.
(D) The migratory routes of marine animals.

80. The Mathura School of art is notable for being the center that produced the first images of:
(A) Shiva and Parvati
(B) The Buddha and Bodhisattvas
(C) Vishnu and Lakshmi
(D) Jain Tirthankaras

81. Which dynasty followed the Mauryas in Magadha and is associated with the revival of Brahmanical traditions?
(A) Kanva
(B) Sunga
(C) Satavahana
(D) Kushana

82. Match List I (Term from Sangam Age) with List II (Meaning).
List I: (Term from Sangam Age)
P. Kurinji
Q. Mullai
R. Marutam
S. Neithal
List II: (Meaning)
1. Pastoral tract
2. Agricultural plains
3. Coastal region
4. Hilly/Mountainous region

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

83. The practice of issuing land grants with fiscal and administrative immunities to priests and officials, a key feature of Gupta polity, is believed to have contributed to the rise of:
(A) A strong centralized state
(B) A powerful merchant class
(C) A system of feudalism
(D) Urban decay

84. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Kushana king Kanishka is famous for starting an era in 78 CE, which came to be known as the Saka Era.
Statement II : Kanishka was a great patron of Mahayana Buddhism and convened the Fourth Buddhist Council.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

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85. Arrange the following texts in their likely chronological order of composition:
1. Arthashastra
2. Harshacharita
3. Tolkappiyam
4. Aryabhatiya

(A) 1, 3, 4, 2
(B) 3, 1, 2, 4
(C) 1, 4, 3, 2
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

86. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding the reign of Harshavardhana?
(A) He was a patron of learning and the Nalanda university flourished during his time.
(B) He successfully defeated the Chalukyan king Pulakesin II on the banks of the Narmada.
(C) He organized a great religious assembly at Prayaga every five years.
(D) His biography, the Harshacharita, was

written by his court poet Banabhatta.

87. The Vakataka dynasty, contemporaries of the Guptas, are particularly famous for their patronage of art and architecture, notably the rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas at:
(A) Ellora Caves
(B) Elephanta Caves
(C) Badami Caves
(D) Ajanta Caves

88. Consider the following statements about the Indo-Greeks:
1. They were the first rulers in India to issue coins which can be definitely attributed to kings.
2. They introduced features of Hellenistic art in the north-western part of Indi(A)
3. The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was Menander, who converted to Buddhism.
4. They ruled from a single, centralized capital at Taxil(A)
5. Their rule was confined only to the region west of the Indus river.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

89. A major social development during the Gupta period was the crystallization of the caste system and the increased proliferation of sub-castes (jatis). What was a primary reason for this?
(A) The decline in urban centers and a return to a purely agrarian economy.
(B) The influence of Buddhist teachings on social equality.
(C) Absorption of foreign groups and local tribes into the Brahmanical framework.
(D) The legal reforms introduced by Samudragupta to simplify the social structure.

90. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Gupta emperors issued a large number of gold coins, which displayed high artistic excellence.
Reason (R) : The Gupta empire had a flourishing economy with surplus production and profitable trade, providing the wealth necessary for issuing gold currency.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

91. Which one of the following terms refers to the administrative units under Harsha?
(A) Ahara
(B) Nadu
(C) Sarkars
(D) Bhukti, Vishaya, Pathaka

92. The polity of the Visnukundins, who ruled in Andhradesa, was characterized by:
(A) A republican form of government.
(B) A monarchy patronizing Brahmanism and cave architecture.
(C) A feudatory relationship with the Kushanas.
(D) A maritime empire controlling trade with Southeast Asia.

93. The literary work 'Silappadikaram', a gem of Sangam literature, deals with the story of:
(A) A king's military exploits.
(B) The philosophical debates between different religious sects.
(C) The love and tragedy of Kannagi and Kovalan.
(D) A grammar of the Tamil language.

94. What was the 'prashasti' of the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, composed by Harisena, primarily about?
(A) A detailed code of law for the Gupta empire.
(B) A description of the society and economy of Pataliputra.
(C) A philosophical discourse on the nature of kingship.
(D) A eulogy of the military conquests and achievements of Samudragupta.

95. In the Mauryan administrative system, what was the primary function of the 'Amatyas'?
(A) High-ranking officials, including various ministers and administrators.
(B) Village headmen responsible for resolving

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various local disputes.
(C) Secret spies and agents reporting directly to the reigning king.
(D) Superintendents of specific economic departments like mining sites.

96. The two-humped Bactrian camel, often depicted on coins and in art, is associated with which ancient Indian dynasty that had Central Asian origins?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Guptas
(D) Mauryas

97. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Gupta period saw the beginning of the construction of free-standing stone temples.
Statement II : The temples of this period were large, elaborate structures with towering shikhara, similar to later medieval temples.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

98. Consider the following statements correctly describing the administration under Harshavardhana:
1. The king was actively involved in supervising the administration and toured his kingdom frequently.
2. The criminal law was very lenient and punishments were light.
3. Officials were sometimes paid through land grants.
4. The administration was highly centralized, with all power concentrated in the king's hands.
5. The army consisted of infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephants.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 1, 3 and 5 only
(C) 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 5

99. The Rummindei Pillar Inscription of Asoka is significant because:
(A) It describes the horrors of the Kalinga war.
(B) It contains a list of animals and birds which should not be killed.
(C) It records Asoka's visit to Buddha's birthplace and tax reductions.
(D) It is written in both Greek and Aramaic scripts.

100. Match List I (Ancient Site) with List II (Associated Feature).
List I: (Ancient Site)
P. Sarnath
Q. Deogarh
R. Undavalli
S. Barygaza (Bharuch)
List II: (Associated Feature)
1. Major port for Indo-Roman trade
2. Gupta period Dashavatara Temple
3. Visnukundin rock-cut shrine
4. Mauryan Lion Capital
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

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101. The transition from a state (Janapada) to an empire (Samrajya) in ancient India is best exemplified by the rise of:
(A) The Videha kingdom
(B) The Vajji confederacy
(C) The Magadhan monarchy
(D) The Kuru-Panchala region

102. The term 'Sarthavaha' in the Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods referred to:
(A) The chief of a craft guild.
(B) The head of a merchant caravan.
(C) A money-lender or banker.
(D) A collector of customs duties.

103. Which Mauryan ruler is credited with the expansion of the empire to its furthest extent, covering almost the entire subcontinent?
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Bindusara
(C) Brihadratha
(D) Asoka

104. Which of the following statements about Asoka's Dhamma is most accurate?
(A) An ethical code promoting social harmony and general welfare.
(B) A new religion aimed at replacing Brahmanism and Buddhism.
(C) Mauryan state policy to enforce Buddhism on all subjects.
(D) Set of administrative reforms to improve annual tax collection.

105. The use of ring wells and burnt bricks for construction on a large scale is a feature of urban centers during which period?
(A) Neolithic
(B) Chalcolithic
(C) Mauryan
(D) Vedic

106. The political disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was a consequence of:
(A) Weak successors, vast territory, and internal rebellions.
(B) A single decisive battle against a foreign invader.
(C) A popular democratic uprising against monarchy.
(D) A series of natural disasters that destroyed the economy.

107. Which script was used for the Asokan edicts found in the Kandahar region of Afghanistan, indicating the multicultural nature of the empire's frontiers?
(A) Greek and Aramaic
(B) Only Brahmi
(C) Only Pali
(D) Brahmi and Kharoshthi

108. Consider the following statements regarding the art and architecture of the post-Mauryan period:
1. This period saw the construction of stupas with elaborate gateways (toranas), like at Sanchi and Bharhut.
2. The Gandhara, Mathura, and Amaravati schools of sculpture flourishe(D)
3. Rock-cut architecture, including chaityas and viharas, was prevalent in the Western Deccan.
4. The concept of a free-standing structural temple with a garbhagriha was perfected during this tim(E)
5. All artistic patronage came exclusively from the royal courts.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

109. The polity in South India, as reflected in Sangam literature, was dominated by:
(A) The three crowned kings - Chera, Chola, and Pandya.
(B) The Satavahana feudatories.
(C) The Mauryan provincial governors.
(D) A council of elders in a republican system.

110. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Kushanas played a significant role in the history of the Silk Road.
Reason (R) : Their empire was strategically located, controlling territories in Central Asia and North India, which were crucial parts of the overland trade route between China and the Roman Empire.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

111. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of Mahayana Buddhism?
(A) Emphasis on achieving individual Arhatship as the highest goal.
(B) The deification of Buddha.
(C) The ideal of the Bodhisattva.
(D) The use of Sanskrit for writing scriptures.

112. The Hathigumpha inscription is a primary source for the history of King Kharavela of Kalinga. What religious affiliation of the king does it highlight?
(A) His patronage of Jainism.
(B) His patronage of Buddhism.
(C) His devotion to Vishnu.
(D) His performance of Vedic sacrifices.

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113. The Gupta-Vakataka age witnessed a significant development in the agrarian economy through:
(A) The practice of granting Agrahara and Devadana land grants.
(B) The complete nationalization of all agricultural land.
(C) The introduction of large-scale mechanized farming.
(D) The abolition of all land taxes to help peasants.

114. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Varahamihira - Author of Brihat Samhita
(B) Aryabhata - Author of Charaka Samhita
(C) Kalidasa - Author of Harshacharita
(D) Banabhatta - Author of Meghaduta

115. The beginning of Hindu temple architecture is marked by simple, flat-roofed, square shrines with a porch. This early style belongs to which period?
(A) The Gupta period
(B) The Mauryan period
(C) The Sunga period
(D) The period of Harsha

116. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Harsha's empire was a loosely-knit federation of subordinate kings and chiefs who paid tribute and rendered military service.
Statement II : Harsha was able to establish direct administrative control over the entire Indian subcontinent, from the Himalayas to the Kaveri.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

117. The Salankayanas and Visnukundins were important dynasties that filled the political vacuum in:
(A) The Andhra country after the decline of the Ikshvakus.
(B) The region of Malwa after the Sakas.
(C) The Punjab region after the Kushanas.
(D) The Gangetic valley before the rise of the Guptas.

118. Which of the following were features of the Gupta Vakataka age?
1. Flourishing of Sanskrit language and literatur(E)
2. Emergence of Puranic Hinduism with the Trimurti concept.
3. Perfection of the Nagara style of temple architectur(E)
4. Decline in foreign trade compared to the post-Mauryan perio(D)
5. Issuance of the first-ever gold coins in Indi(A)

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

119. A defining feature of Mauryan art, particularly in pillars and animal capitals, is:
(A) The lustrous polish, often called Mauryan polish.
(B) The rough and unpolished texture.
(C) The exclusive use of terracotta.
(D) The depiction of abstract geometric patterns.

120. Which of the following was a direct effect of Alexander's invasion on India?
(A) Opening of land and sea routes between India and the West.
(B) Establishment of a long-lasting Greek empire in Magadha.
(C) Immediate conversion of Indian rulers to the Greek pantheon.
(D) Complete destruction of the university at Taxila.

121. What was the 'Parishad' in the Mauryan administrative structure?
(A) The council of ministers advising the king
(B) The village assembly
(C) The guild of merchants
(D) The city corporation of Pataliputra

122. Arrange the following dynasties in chronological order of their rise to power:
1. Guptas
2. Mauryas
3. Sungas
4. Kushanas

(A) 2, 3, 4, 1

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(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

123. The nature of Asoka's Dhamma was:
(A) A non-denominational code of ethics and responsibility.
(B) A strict enforcement of Buddhist monastic discipline.
(C) A syncretic religion founded by Asoka.
(D) A system of political principles based on the Arthashastra.

124. The term 'Bhaga' in the context of Mauryan and Gupta revenue systems referred to:
(A) The king's customary share of the agricultural produce.
(B) A tax on orchards.
(C) A customs duty on imported goods.
(D) A periodical tribute paid by feudatories.

125. Match List I (School of Art) with List II (Primary Material Used).
List I: (School of Art)
P. Gandhara
Q. Mathura
R. Amaravati
S. Mauryan Pillars
List II: (Primary Material Used)
1. White marble
2. Red-spotted sandstone
3. Grey-blue schist
4. Polished chunar sandstone
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

126. Which Indo-Greek king is the subject of the Buddhist philosophical text 'Milinda Panha'?
(A) Menander
(B) Demetrius
(C) Eucratides
(D) Antialcidas

127. The Satavahanas are often referred to as 'Lords of the Dakshinapatha'. What does this title signify?
(A) Dominion over trade routes connecting north and south India.
(B) Their control over the sea routes to the south.
(C) Their claim of descent from a southern deity.
(D) Their cultural superiority over southern kingdoms.

128. Consider the following pairs related to Sangam Age polity and society:
1. Manram: Village assembly
2. Avai: The imperial court of the crowned monarch
3. Yavana: Term used for Westerners, especially Romans and Greeks
4. Vellalas: The class of priests and teachers
5. Palai: Fertile agricultural land
Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

129. The most significant commodity that India exported to the Roman World, leading to a drain of Roman wealth, was:
(A) Spices, especially pepper
(B) Iron and steel
(C) Horses
(D) Silk yarn

130. A key feature that distinguishes the Amaravati school from the Gandhara and Mathura schools is its:
(A) Dynamic movement and narrative quality in sculptural panels.
(B) Lack of religious themes.
(C) Exclusive use of metal for sculpture.
(D) Heavy influence from Persian art.

131. The term 'devadana' in the Gupta period refers to a land grant made to:
(A) A temple or a deity
(B) A military general
(C) A Brahman
(D) A guild of artisans

132. The development of Sanskrit grammar reached its pinnacle long before the Gupta age with the work 'Ashtadhyayi'. Who was its author?
(A) Panini

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(B) Patanjali
(C) Katyayana
(D) Yaska

133. In the context of Gupta science and technology, who among the following calculated the value of π (pi) and the length of the solar year with remarkable accuracy?
(A) Aryabhata
(B) Varahamihira
(C) Brahmagupta
(D) Bhaskaracharya

134. Which of the following correctly describes the administration of Harsha?
(A) Decentralized with a significant role for feudatories.
(B) Highly centralized with a salaried bureaucracy.
(C) A democratic system with elected officials.
(D) A military rule with no civil administration.

135. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The post-Mauryan centuries witnessed a remarkable growth in craft production and commerce.
Reason (R) : The political fragmentation of the period led to the rise of numerous local centers of power, each patronizing guilds (shrenis) and trade, and the demand from the Roman empire further boosted the economy.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

136. The Visnukundins, rulers of Andhradesa, claimed descent from the Vakatakas and are known for their:
(A) Patronage of Brahmanism and Undavalli rock-cut caves.
(B) Patronage of Jainism and construction of basadis.
(C) Extensive maritime trade with Southeast Asia.
(D) Conquest of the Gupta heartland in Magadha.

137. Which of the following statements about the Mauryan economy is incorrect?
(A) Trade and commerce were completely non-existent.
(B) Agriculture was the mainstay of the economy.
(C) The state operated its own farms, mines, and weaving workshops.
(D) A standardized system of punch-marked coins was in circulation.

138. The Kandahar Bilingual Rock Inscription of Asoka is a testament to the Mauryan presence in Afghanistan. In which two scripts is it written?
(A) Greek and Aramaic
(B) Brahmi and Kharoshthi
(C) Greek and Brahmi
(D) Kharoshthi and Aramaic

139. Who was the founder of the Sunga dynasty that succeeded the Mauryas?
(A) Pushyamitra
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Vasumitra
(D) Devabhuti

140. Which Saka ruler of Western India is famous for the repair of the Sudarshana Lake, originally built during the Mauryan period?
(A) Rudradaman I
(B) Nahapana
(C) Chashtana
(D) Rudrasimha III

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141. The Sangam assembly of poets and scholars was traditionally held under the patronage of which dynasty?
(A) The Pandyas
(B) The Cheras
(C) The Cholas
(D) The Satavahanas

142. Consider the following factors that contributed to the rise of Magadha as a major power:
1. Availability of iron for tools and weapons.
2. Control over the fertile Gangetic plains.
3. Use of elephants in warfare on a large scal(E)
4. A series of ambitious and ruthless rulers.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

143. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Kushana rulers adopted grand titles like 'Maharajadhiraja' (king of great kings) and 'Devaputra' (son of God).
Statement II : These titles were meant to legitimize their rule and elevate their status, possibly influenced by Chinese and Roman imperial traditions.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

144. The Gupta rulers issued a large number of gold coins known as 'Dinaras'. This practice was likely influenced by the coinage of which preceding dynasty?
(A) The Kushanas
(B) The Mauryas
(C) The Sungas
(D) The Satavahanas

145. The rise of Puranic Hinduism, with its emphasis on Bhakti and the trinity of Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva, is a hallmark of which age?
(A) Gupta-Vakataka Age
(B) Vedic Age
(C) Mauryan Age
(D) Harsha's Age

146. A physician in the Gupta era consults a text that provides detailed knowledge of surgical instruments, procedures for plastic surgery, and cataract operations. Which text is he most likely using?
(A) Sushruta Samhita
(B) Charaka Samhita
(C) Aryabhatiya
(D) Brihat Jataka

147. Harsha's religious leanings evolved during his reign. While he was a devotee of Shiva initially, he later became a great patron of:
(A) Mahayana Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) The Ajivika sect
(D) Tantrism

148. The Salankayanas ruled from Vengi in Andhradesa and were devout worshippers of:
(A) The Sun God, Chitraratha Svami
(B) Lord Vishnu
(C) Lord Shiva
(D) The Buddha

149. The famous iron pillar at Mehrauli, Delhi, known for its rust-resistant quality, is generally attributed to the reign of which Gupta king?
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

150. Match List I (Post-Mauryan Dynasty) with List II (Founder).
List I: (Post-Mauryan Dynasty)
P. Sunga
Q. Kanva
R. Satavahana
S. Kushana (Indian branch)
List II: (Founder)
1. Simuka
2. Vasudeva
3. Kujula Kadphises
4. Pushyamitra
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

151. Which Asokan edict details his conquest of Kalinga and his subsequent remorse and conversion to the policy of Dhamma-vijaya?
(A) Major Rock Edict XIII
(B) Major Rock Edict I
(C) Major Rock Edict IX
(D) Pillar Edict VII

152. The term 'gramika' in Mauryan administration refers to:
(A) The head of the village.
(B) The provincial governor.
(C) The city superintendent.
(D) The chief of the army.

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153. A significant consequence of the decline of the Mauryan Empire was the:
(A) Emergence of numerous indigenous and foreign kingdoms.
(B) Re-establishment of a single paramount power immediately.
(C) Complete disappearance of urban life and trade.
(D) Abandonment of the Brahmi script.

154. What was the most distinctive characteristic of the Gandhara school of sculpture?
(A) Synthesis of Indian themes with Greco-Roman stylistic elements.
(B) Exclusive use of local red-spotted sandstone found in Mathura.
(C) Depiction of events from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
(D) Development of abstract and purely symbolic art forms.

155. Consider the following statements regarding developments in science and technology during the Gupta Age:
1. Aryabhata proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis and revolves around the sun.
2. The concept of zero as a number and the decimal system were establishe(D)
3. The Sushruta Samhita provides detailed information on surgical procedures.
4. Metallurgy reached an advanced stage, as evidenced by the Iron Pillar of Delhi.
5. All scientific knowledge was kept secret and not recorded in texts.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

156. The 'Nagananda', a Sanskrit play that tells the story of a Bodhisattva's self-sacrifice to save a Naga, is attributed to which royal author?
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Chandragupta II
(D) Mahendravarman I

157. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Visnukundins of Andhradesa were powerful rulers who performed horse sacrifices.
Statement II : Their architectural legacy includes the famous rock-cut caves at Undavalli, featuring a large reclining image of Vishnu.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

158. The 'pradakshina patha' is an architectural feature found in which type of ancient Indian structure?
(A) A stupa
(B) A royal palace
(C) A granary
(D) A city gate

159. The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman I is unique because:
(A) It is the first long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
(B) It is written entirely in the Greek language.
(C) It records the defeat of the Mauryas.
(D) It is the only source for the history of the Kushanas.

160. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Sangam literature provides rich details about the socio-economic life of ancient Tamilakam.
Reason (R) : This body of work consists of secular poems on love and war, and courtly poetry patronized by the Chera, Chola, and Pandya kings.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

161. An important aspect of the Gupta polity was the relationship between the emperor and subordinate rulers. What term was used for these feudatory chiefs?
(A) Samantas
(B) Rajukas
(C) Mahamattas

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(D) Adhyakshas

162. The 'Sita' land mentioned in Kautilya's Arthashastra refers to:
(A) Land belonging to the royal demesne or crown land.
(B) Land privately owned by peasants.
(C) Land granted to Brahmanas.
(D) Pasture land for royal cattle.

163. The most celebrated Indo-Greek ruler, known for his patronage of Buddhism and his dialogues with the monk Nagasena, was:
(A) Menander I
(B) Euthydemus
(C) Demetrius
(D) Apollodotus II

164. What was the primary purpose of the 'Toranas' or gateways constructed at major stupa sites like Sanchi?
(A) To be carved with Jataka tales and scenes from Buddha's life.
(B) To serve as defensive fortifications.
(C) To provide residential quarters for monks.
(D) To house the relics of the Buddha.

165. The accounts of the Chinese traveler Fa-Hien, who visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II, provide valuable information on:
(A) General peace, prosperity, and religious conditions of the empire.
(B) The military organization of the Gupta army.
(C) The geneology of the Gupta dynasty.
(D) The scientific achievements of Aryabhata.

166. Which one of the following was a major port on the east coast of India during the period of trade with the Roman world?
(A) Arikamedu
(B) Barygaza
(C) Muziris
(D) Sopara

167. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Gupta period is marked by the development of classical Sanskrit literature.
Statement II : The Gupta emperors made Prakrit the official language of their court and administration.
(A) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

168. Consider the following statements about Harsha's administration:
1. He maintained a large and efficient standing army.
2. The legal system was harsh, with severe punishments for minor offenses.
3. He personally inspected the administration by travelling extensively.
4. Revenue was primarily drawn from a tax on agricultural produce, amounting to one-sixth.
5. All officials were paid in cash from the royal treasury.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 5 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

169. What is the subject matter of the literary work 'Manimekalai', a sequel to 'Silappadikaram' in the Sangam tradition?
(A) Buddhist doctrine exposition through Manimekalai's adventures.
(B) The military conquests of Karikala Chola.
(C) A treatise on Tamil grammar and poetics.
(D) The story of the Pandya king Nedunjeliyan.

170. The practice of land grants in the Gupta period led to:
(A) Rise of landed intermediaries and beginnings of feudalism.
(B) The strengthening of central authority over villages.
(C) The weakening of the caste system.
(D) A decline in agricultural production.

171. A Mauryan official named 'Rajjuka' would have been responsible for which of the following duties, combining both executive and judicial functions?
(A) Administering a district, surveying land, and dispensing justice.
(B) Supervising trade and commerce in a city.

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(C) Commanding a wing of the army.
(D) Managing the royal household and treasury.

172. The decline of the Mauryan empire witnessed the rise of the Sungas in Magadha. They were a dynasty of which varna?
(A) Brahmana
(B) Kshatriya
(C) Vaishya
(D) Shudra

173. The 'Navaratnas' or 'nine gems' were a group of eminent scholars and artists who are said to have adorned the court of which Gupta king?
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Chandragupta I
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Skandagupta

174. Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar to which city, making it the new political center of North India?
(A) Kanauj
(B) Pataliputra
(C) Prayaga
(D) Varanasi

175. Match List I (Ancient Term) with List II (Meaning in Gupta Administration).
List I: (Ancient Term)
P. Bhukti
Q. Vishaya
R. Uparika
S. Bhaga
List II: (Meaning in Gupta Administration)
1. District
2. King's share of produce (land tax)
3. Province
4. Provincial Governor
Choose the correct option from the codes given below:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

176. The policy of 'Dhamma-vijaya' (conquest through righteousness) was adopted by Asoka after which major event?
(A) The Kalinga War.
(B) His accession to the throne.
(C) The Third Buddhist Council.
(D) The visit of Megasthenes.

177. Which art school, flourishing under the Satavahanas in the Andhra region, is known for its use of white marble and its narrative dynamism?
(A) Amaravati
(B) Gandhara
(C) Mathura
(D) Sarnath

178. The beginning of temple architecture in the Gupta period is characterized by:
(A) Square sanctums (garbhagriha) with flat roofs and porticos.
(B) Large temple-cities with multiple shrines.
(C) Massive rock-cut temples with elaborate carvings.
(D) Tall, curvilinear towers (shikhara) over the sanctum.

179. Xuanzang's (Hiuen Tsang's) account of his travels, the 'Si-Yu-Ki', is a valuable source for the history of which Indian ruler's reign?
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Kanishka
(D) Chandragupta II

180. Consider the following statements about the Mauryan Empire:
1. It was the first and one of the largest empires in ancient Indi(A)
2. The Arthashastra provides a detailed blueprint for its administration.
3. Asoka was its founder.
4. The empire's capital was at Taxil(A)
5. It disintegrated rapidly due to a combination of political and economic factors.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 5 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

181. The expansion of the Mauryan empire under Chandragupta was significantly aided by his advisor, who is credited with authoring the Arthashastra. Who was he?
(A) Chanakya (Kautilya)

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(B) Upagupta
(C) Rakshasa
(D) Sthulabhadra

182. Given below are two statements. Read both statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Kushanas issued a large number of copper coins in addition to their famous gold coins.
Statement II : The copper coins were meant for large-scale imperial transactions, while gold was used for local, everyday exchange.
(A) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

183. The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism facilitated the creation of Buddha images because:
(A) Deification of Buddha and Bodhisattvas allowed for visual art.
(B) It rejected all forms of worship.
(C) It mandated the worship of stupas only.
(D) It followed Jainism's idol worship tradition.

184. The society in South India, as described in Sangam literature, was characterized by:
(A) Stratification based on occupation and eco-zone (tinai) belonging.
(B) A rigid, four-fold varna system identical to that in the North.
(C) The complete absence of social hierarchy.
(D) A matriarchal system of inheritance in all kingdoms.

185. The Gupta system of land revenue included a tax called 'Hiranya'. What did this tax likely represent?
(A) Tax paid in cash by producers of specific crops or commodities.
(B) A tax on agricultural produce paid in kind.
(C) A tax on fruit and flowers.
(D) A compulsory military contribution.

186. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the early Gupta temples?
(A) A towering shikhara
(B) Flat roof
(C) Square garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum)
(D) A pillared porch

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187. The play 'Mrichchhakatika' (The Little Clay Cart), which provides a realistic picture of urban society, is attributed to:
(A) Shudraka
(B) Kalidasa
(C) Vishakhadatta
(D) Bhasa

188. Which of the following best describes the religious atmosphere during Harsha's reign?
(A) General religious tolerance with the king patronizing multiple faiths.
(B) Strict enforcement of Shaivism as the state religion.
(C) Persecution of all religions except Buddhism.
(D) The decline of both Hinduism and Buddhism.

189. The Undavalli caves in Andhradesa, known for their multi-storied rock-cut structure, are a significant contribution of which dynasty?
(A) Visnukundins
(B) Salankayanas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Ikshvakus

190. Arrange the following rulers in chronological order of their reign:
1. Harshavardhana
2. Asoka
3. Kanishka
4. Samudragupta
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 4, 1

191. The primary script used for writing Prakrit in most of Asoka's edicts across India was:
(A) Brahmi
(B) Kharoshthi
(C) Aramaic
(D) Greek

192. The Kushana ruler Kanishka is associated with all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The composition of the Allahabad Prashasti.
(B) The beginning of the Saka era in 78 CE.
(C) The patronage of the Gandhara school of art.
(D) The convening of the Fourth Buddhist

council.

193. The economic prosperity of the Satavahana kingdom was largely based on:
(A) Role as intermediary in trade between Rome and India.
(B) Plunder from continuous warfare.
(C) Its control over the fertile Gangetic plains.
(D) Its monopoly over diamond mines.

194. The concept of the 'Trimurti' (the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) became central to which religious development?
(A) Puranic Hinduism
(B) Early Vedic religion
(C) Mahayana Buddhism
(D) Jainism

195. The Vakataka queen Prabhavatigupta, who ruled as a regent, was the daughter of which Gupta emperor?
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

196. Which of the following statements about the development of science and mathematics in the Gupta period is incorrect?
(A) The field of surgery was completely undeveloped.
(B) The use of the decimal system was well-established.
(C) Aryabhata correctly explained the causes of solar and lunar eclipses.
(D) Indian numerals, including zero, were transmitted to the Arab world from India.

197. Banabhatta, the author of Harshacharita and Kadambari, was the court poet of:
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Pulakesin II
(D) Samudragupta

198. The term 'Sreni' in ancient India referred to:
(A) A guild of merchants or artisans.
(B) A council of ministers.
(C) An army unit.
(D) A category of land revenue.

199. The first images of the Buddha in human form were created almost simultaneously at which two centers of art?
(A) Gandhara and Mathura
(B) Sanchi and Bharhut
(C) Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda
(D) Sarnath and Bodhgaya

200. What was the most significant political impact of the Kalinga War on Asoka?
(A) Shift in state policy from military conquest to cultural conquest.
(B) It led him to expand his military for further conquests.
(C) It caused him to abdicate the throne in remorse.
(D) It resulted in the economic collapse of the Mauryan empire.

201. Which ruler is described in the Allahabad Pillar Inscription as having "violently exterminated" several kings of Aryavarta?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Asoka
(D) Harshavardhana

202. The decline in Roman trade from the 3rd century CE onwards had a significant impact on which dynasty, whose prosperity was heavily linked to it?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Mauryas
(C) Guptas
(D) Palas

203. The term 'Agrahara grant' in the Gupta period signified:
(A) A tax-free village grant to a Brahmana or group of Brahmanas.
(B) A grant of land to a military officer.
(C) The sale of village land to merchants.
(D) The establishment of a new market town.

204. The Salankayanas, who ruled in the Andhra region, were eventually supplanted by:
(A) The Visnukundins
(B) The Pallavas
(C) The Vakatakas
(D) The Chalukyas

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205. The 'Nagananda', written by Harsha, is a play with which central theme?
(A) A Buddhist story of self-sacrifice
(B) A historical romance
(C) A courtly comedy
(D) A political allegory

206. The Mauryan state's control over the economy is evident from the office of the 'Samaharta'. What was his chief responsibility?
(A) Assessor and Collector-general of revenue.
(B) Commander-in-chief of the army.
(C) Chief Justice.
(D) Head of the espionage department.

207. Which of the following is a key feature of the Mathura school of art?
(A) Use of local red-spotted sandstone and indigenous traditions.
(B) It used grey schist stone exclusively.
(C) It was influenced heavily by Greco-Roman styles.
(D) It only produced secular, non-religious art.

208. The Sangam poems frequently mention the 'Yavanas'. Who were they?
(A) People from the Greek and Roman worlds.
(B) People from Central Asia.
(C) People from North India.
(D) People from Southeast Asia.

209. The Gupta period saw the compilation of which major legal texts that codified Hindu law?
(A) The Dharmashastras and Smritis (e.g., Narada Smriti)
(B) The Tripitakas
(C) The Agamas
(D) The Arthashastra

210. What was the primary religion patronized by Harsha towards the later part of his reign, as evidenced by his grand assemblies at Kanauj and Prayaga?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Jainism
(D) Ajivikism

211. Which event is considered a starting point for the disintegration of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) The death of Asoka.
(B) The invasion of Alexander the Great.
(C) The Satavahanas in the Deccan.
(D) The Kalinga War.

212. The term 'Dhamma Mahamatta' refers to:
(A) A new cadre of officials created to propagate Dhamma.
(B) A special class of military officers under Asoka.
(C) A class of high-ranking judicial officers.
(D) The provincial governors of the Mauryan empire.

213. The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to:
(A) Issue coins with portraits of kings.
(B) Build stupas.
(C) Use a Brahmi-derived script.
(D) Patronize the Sanskrit language.

214. The Satavahana rulers called themselves protectors of the Varna system. Which king restated this claim and was titled 'destroyer of Saka, Yavana and Pahlava power'?
(A) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(B) Simuka
(C) Hala
(D) Yajna Sri Satakarni

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215. The 'Gathasaptasati', a collection of Prakrit poems, is attributed to which Satavahana king?
(A) Hala
(B) Simuka
(C) Krishna
(D) Gautamiputra Satakarni

216. The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism is associated with which Buddhist council?
(A) Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir under Kanishka.
(B) The First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha.
(C) The Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali.
(D) The Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra.

217. The polity of the Gupta kings can be best described as:
(A) Feudal-federal
(B) Totalitarian
(C) Republican
(D) Anarchic

218. In Gupta administration, the term 'sandhivigrahika' meant:
(A) The minister for war and peace.
(B) The chief of police.
(C) The head of the royal treasury.
(D) The chief justice.

219. The 'Pancha-siddhantika' of Varahamihira is a text on:
(A) Astronomy
(B) Medicine
(C) Grammar
(D) Political science

220. The decline of trade with the west and the decrease in the circulation of gold coins are characteristic features of which period?
(A) Post-Gupta period (including Harsha's time)
(B) Post-Mauryan period
(C) Gupta period
(D) Mauryan period

221. The Lion capital at Sarnath, a masterpiece of Mauryan sculpture, originally surmounted a pillar that was erected to commemorate what event?
(A) Buddha's first sermon
(B) Buddha's birth
(C) Buddha's enlightenment
(D) Buddha's Mahaparinirvana

222. The term 'Bhukti' in the Gupta administrative system referred to:
(A) A province
(B) A district
(C) A village
(D) A city

223. What was the most significant contribution of the Gupta period to mathematics?
(A) The concept of zero and the decimal system.
(B) The invention of the logarithm.
(C) The development of calculus.
(D) The formulation of the Pythagorean theorem.

224. The Hathigumpha inscription is crucial for the history of which dynasty?
(A) The Chedis of Kalinga
(B) The Mauryas
(C) The Satavahanas
(D) The Kushanas

225. The famous reclining Vishnu statue at the Undavalli caves is a testament to the artistic patronage of which dynasty in Andhradesa?
(A) Visnukundins
(B) Salankayanas
(C) Ikshvakus
(D) Pallavas

226. Harsha's defeat at the hands of a southern ruler checked his ambition to expand into the Deccan. Who was this ruler?
(A) Pulakesin II Chalukya
(B) Mahendravarman I Pallava
(C) Narasimhavarman I Pallava
(D) Dantidurga Rashtrakuta

227. A key reason for the economic prosperity during the Mauryan period was:
(A) State regulation of agriculture, trade, and industry.
(B) Large tributes from the Roman empire.
(C) The discovery of massive gold fields in Magadha.
(D) The absence of any taxation on the populace.

228. The subject matter of the Amaravati school of art is predominantly:
(A) Buddhist
(B) Jain
(C) Hindu
(D) Secular

229. The Gupta rulers' claim to legitimacy was often enhanced by:
(A) Matrimonial alliances with families like the Vakatakas.
(B) Democratic elections.
(C) Conquering the Roman empire.
(D) Rejecting all forms of religion.

230. The 'Harshacharita', a biography of Harshavardhana, was written by:
(A) Banabhatta
(B) Harsha himself
(C) Xuanzang
(D) Dandin

231. The term 'grama-bhojaka' during Harsha's time referred to:

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(A) The village headman.
(B) A royal cook.
(C) An official in charge of charity.
(D) A land revenue officer.

232. The city of Pataliputra, the great Mauryan capital, was described in detail by which Greek ambassador?
(A) Megasthenes
(B) Herodotus
(C) Deimachus
(D) Dionysius

233. Which of the following is NOT one of the schools of post-Mauryan art?
(A) Sarnath
(B) Gandhara
(C) Mathura
(D) Amaravati

234. The Satavahanas issued coins made of:
(A) Lead, potin, copper, and bronze
(B) Gold only
(C) Silver only
(D) Terracotta

235. The literary works 'Tolkappiyam', 'Ettutogai', and 'Pattuppattu' are part of which ancient literary tradition?
(A) Tamil Sangam literature
(B) Sanskrit literature of the Gupta age
(C) Prakrit literature of the Satavahanas
(D) Pali literature of early Buddhism

236. The Vakatakas were a major power in the Deccan, contemporary to the:
(A) Guptas
(B) Mauryas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Palas

237. The 'Bhitari pillar inscription' is an important source for the later Gupta period, particularly for the reign of Skandagupta and his conflict with the:
(A) Hunas
(B) Sakas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Greeks

238. The Prayaga Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar Inscription) of Samudragupta was composed by:
(A) Harisena
(B) Kalidasa
(C) Banabhatta
(D) Ravikirti

239. The great assembly convened by Harsha at Kanauj was held to honor:
(A) The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang
(B) The Brahmana priests
(C) The Jain monk Divakaramitra
(D) The Chalukyan ambassador

240. The Visnukundins were patrons of both Brahmanism and Buddhism and ruled over a part of:
(A) modern-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
(B) modern-day Gujarat
(C) modern-day Bengal
(D) modern-day Punjab

241. The policy of 'conquest of the quarters' (digvijaya) and the performance of Ashvamedha sacrifices were revived by which dynasty after the Mauryas?
(A) The Sungas and later the Guptas.
(B) The Kushanas.
(C) The Indo-Greeks.
(D) The Sakas.

242. The Bodhisattva figures in the Gandhara school of art are often depicted with moustaches and muscular bodies, reflecting the influence of:
(A) Greco-Roman sculptural traditions
(B) Indigenous Indian aesthetics
(C) Persian royal portraiture
(D) Chinese artistic styles

243. The first structural temples in India, as opposed to rock-cut caves, were built during the:
(A) Gupta period
(B) Mauryan period
(C) Sunga period
(D) Reign of Harsha

244. The Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II, which mentions his victory over Harsha, was composed by:
(A) Ravikirti
(B) Banabhatta

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(C) Xuanzang
(D) Harisena

245. The Salankayanas ruled from Vengi and their name is derived from their gotra and their symbol, which was:
(A) The bull (Nandi)
(B) The lion
(C) The tiger
(D) The elephant

246. Asoka's edicts dealing with the prohibition of animal slaughter and the regulation of festivals for the welfare of people reflect the core principle of his Dhamma, which was:
(A) Promotion of social welfare and ethical behavior.
(B) The assertion of royal power.
(C) The collection of more revenue.
(D) The preparation for future wars.

247. The most striking feature of the sculptures of the Amaravati school is:
(A) Movement and narration in crowded compositions.
(B) The serene and spiritual expression of the Buddha.
(C) The use of red sandstone.
(D) The influence of Roman portraiture.

248. The Gupta era is considered a 'classical age' in Sanskrit literature primarily due to the works of which literary figure?
(A) Kalidasa
(B) Panini
(C) Patanjali
(D) Ashvaghosha

249. The system of paying administrative officers with land grants instead of cash became more prevalent during the reign of:
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Asoka
(C) Kanishka
(D) Samudragupta

250. The rise of Magadha to imperial status was a long process. Which dynasty laid the foundation for its expansion before the Mauryas?
(A) The Haryankas and Shishunagas
(B) The Lichchhavis
(C) The Kurus
(D) The Panchalas

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The ascendancy of Magadha from a mere state into a formidable empire represents a pivotal transformation in early Indian political history. This process, culminating in the establishment of the Mauryan Empire, was influenced by a confluence of factors, including strategic geographical advantages, able leadership, and a shifting political landscape. The Greek invasion under Alexander, while brief, had significant effects on the northwestern frontier, potentially disrupting existing power structures and creating a vacuum that facilitated the rise of a new indigenous power. The Mauryan expansion, initiated by Chandragupta Maurya, was a systematic process of consolidation and conquest that unified a vast portion of the subcontinent for the first time. This expansion was not merely a military endeavor but also involved diplomatic and administrative integration of diverse regions. The empire reached its maximum territorial extent under Asoka, encompassing an area from the Himalayas in the north to parts of the southern peninsula, and from Afghanistan in the west to Bengal in the east. This transition from a cluster of regional states to a single, centralized imperial entity fundamentally altered the scale and nature of governance, economy, and society in ancient India, setting a new precedent for political organization.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what was a significant effect of the Greek invasion under Alexander?
(A) It directly led to the establishment of the Mauryan dynasty.
(B) It may have created a power disruption on the northwestern frontier.
(C) It introduced Greek administrative models adopted by the Mauryans.
(D) It resulted in the immediate economic collapse of the Magadhan state.

252. The passage describes the rise of the Mauryan Empire as a process primarily characterized by:
(A) a combination of military, diplomatic, and

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administrative methods.
(B) exclusive reliance on military conquest for territorial gains.
(C) the passive absorption of neighboring states without conflict.
(D) a focus on economic dominance rather than political control.

253. Which of the following statements can be inferred about the political situation before the Mauryan expansion?
(A) The Indian subcontinent was unified under a single, non-Magadhan empire.
(B) Political power was fragmented among various regional states.
(C) Political power was fragmented among various regional states.
(D) Magadha was the only state with any significant military power.

254. The passage suggests that the Mauryan Empire's primary achievement was the:
(A) complete cultural assimilation of all conquered peoples.
(B) establishment of a new economic system based on foreign trade.
(C) permanent eradication of all regional state identities.
(D) political unification of a vast and diverse subcontinent.

255. Under which ruler did the Mauryan Empire achieve its greatest territorial extent, as mentioned in the source?
(A) Alexander
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Asoka
(D) The last king of Magadha

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Mauryan polity was characterized by a highly organized and centralized administrative structure, designed to govern its expansive territories effectively. At the apex of this system was the monarch, who held supreme executive, legislative, and judicial power. The Mauryan economy, which sustained this vast political machinery, was predominantly agrarian, with the state exercising significant control over agricultural production and land revenue. This control was crucial for maintaining a large standing army and a complex bureaucracy. The state also claimed ownership of vast tracts of land, including forests and mines, and regulated trade and commerce to a considerable degree. This economic framework involved a sophisticated system of taxation, where revenue was collected from various sources, including agriculture, trade, and crafts. The surplus generated by this robust economy was not only used for administrative and military expenditure but also for public works and the patronage of different social and religious groups. This intricate interplay between a centralized polity and a state-regulated economy was a defining feature of the Mauryan period, enabling the empire to maintain stability and control over its diverse domains for a considerable period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. Based on the passage, what was the fundamental nature of the Mauryan polity?
(A) A loose confederation of autonomous states
(B) A highly centralized administrative structure
(C) A decentralized feudal system
(D) A democratic republic led by an elected council

257. The passage indicates that the Mauryan economy was primarily:
(A) dependent on international maritime trade.
(B) centered around pastoralism and animal husbandry.
(C) based on industrial manufacturing in urban centers.
(D) founded on agriculture and state-controlled land revenue.

258. What can be inferred about the relationship between the Mauryan economy and its polity?
(A) The state's economic regulation was essential for sustaining its political structure.
(B) The economy functioned independently of political control.
(C) Political power was derived solely from military strength, not economic control.
(D) The economy was too weak to support the centralized administration.

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259. According to the source, state revenue in the Mauryan Empire was utilized for which of the following purposes?
(A) Exclusively for the personal enrichment of the monarch
(B) Only for funding military expeditions
(C) For administrative, military, and public works expenditures
(D) Primarily for promoting a single state religion

260. The passage suggests that state control in the Mauryan economy extended to:
(A) the regulation of agriculture, trade, and natural resources like mines.
(B) the prohibition of all private land ownership.
(C) fixing the profession of every individual citizen.
(D) enforcing a single currency for all international transactions.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Asoka's policy of Dhamma, propagated extensively through edicts, represents a unique aspect of Mauryan rule. The nature of this Dhamma was not that of a specific religious doctrine but rather an ethical and moral code of conduct intended for the welfare and governance of the empire's diverse population. It emphasized principles such as non-violence, respect for elders and teachers, and considerate treatment of slaves and servants. While this policy was a cornerstone of Asoka's reign, its role in the subsequent decline and disintegration of the Mauryan Empire is a subject of academic debate. Some interpretations suggest that the policy's emphasis on non-violence may have weakened the military prowess of the empire, making it vulnerable to internal and external threats. Conversely, other perspectives argue that the decline was a more complex phenomenon, resulting from factors such as administrative over-centralization, economic strain on the treasury, succession disputes, and the rise of regional consciousness in the far-flung provinces. The disintegration was, therefore, likely a multifaceted process, where the weakening of the central authority allowed peripheral regions to assert their independence, leading to the eventual collapse of the unified imperial structure.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, the nature of Asoka's Dhamma is best described as:
(A) a new religious system founded by the emperor.
(B) a mandatory conversion policy to Buddhism.
(C) a set of laws exclusively for the Mauryan military.
(D) a moral and ethical code for governance and social conduct.

262. The passage presents the relationship between Asoka's Dhamma and the empire's decline as:
(A) a definitively proven cause-and-effect relationship.
(B) a matter of scholarly debate with multiple interpretations.
(C) completely unrelated, with no suggested connection.
(D) a minor factor compared to the impact of foreign invasions.

263. Which of the following is presented in the text as a potential cause for the Mauryan decline, separate from the policy of Dhamma?
(A) The promotion of regional languages over a single imperial language
(B) The lack of any significant public works during Asoka's reign
(C) The economic strain caused by maintaining a vast administration
(D) The over-reliance on maritime trade which suddenly collapsed

264. What does the passage imply was a primary consequence of the weakening of central Mauryan authority?
(A) The immediate adoption of Dhamma by all successor states
(B) A cultural renaissance across the entire subcontinent
(C) A peaceful transition to a new, equally large empire
(D) The assertion of independence by peripheral regions

265. The principles of Dhamma, as described in the source, included:
(A) non-violence and respectful behavior towards elders and dependents.

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(B) mandatory vegetarianism and monasticism for all citizens.
(C) the worship of Asoka as a divine king.
(D) the abolition of the taxation system to ensure public welfare.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Mauryan art and architecture can be broadly categorized, with monumental stone sculpture and architecture representing a significant imperial initiative. This period is renowned for its highly polished stone surfaces, a distinctive feature of Mauryan craftsmanship. The architectural legacy includes remains of palaces, but it is most famously represented by monolithic pillars erected by Asoka across the empire. These pillars, often topped with elaborate animal capitals, served as vehicles for his inscriptions. The Asokan edicts, engraved on these pillars and on rock surfaces, are invaluable historical sources that provide insight into his reign and policies. A crucial aspect of these edicts is their use of specific languages and scripts to reach a wider audience. The predominant language used was a form of Prakrit, the common vernacular, ensuring the message was comprehensible to the general populace. For scripting these messages, the Mauryans employed multiple scripts depending on the region. The Brahmi script was used in most parts of the empire, while the Kharosthi script, derived from Aramaic, was utilized in the northwestern regions. This multilingual and multi-script approach demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the empire's linguistic diversity and a pragmatic approach to communication.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is identified in the passage as a hallmark of Mauryan stone craftsmanship?
(A) The exclusive use of brick and timber
(B) A highly polished surface on stone objects
(C) The intricate use of coloured mosaics
(D) The creation of small, portable sculptures

267. According to the passage, what was a primary function of the Asokan pillars?
(A) To serve as astronomical observation posts
(B) To act as carriers for the emperor's edicts
(C) To function as defensive watchtowers
(D) To mark the locations of commercial markets

268. The use of Prakrit language in Asokan edicts suggests an intention to:
(A) ensure the edicts were understood by the common people.
(B) communicate a message primarily to the scholarly elite.
(C) promote a new official language to replace all others.
(D) create a cryptic code understandable only by officials.

269. The passage states that the Kharosthi script was used in which specific region of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) The southern provinces
(B) The eastern delta region
(C) The northwestern areas
(D) The central Magadhan heartland

270. What can be inferred from the use of multiple scripts like Brahmi and Kharosthi for the edicts?
(A) The Mauryan administration was inefficient and lacked standardization.
(B) The empire was on the verge of linguistic fragmentation.
(C) There was a fierce rivalry between proponents of the two scripts.
(D) The administration adapted its communication methods to regional contexts.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The dissolution of the Mauryan Empire heralded an era characterized by the emergence of diverse regional powers. This period witnessed a complex political landscape where indigenous dynasties and rulers of foreign origin vied for control. In the Gangetic heartland, the Sungas succeeded the Mauryas, attempting to maintain a semblance of imperial tradition. In the Deccan, the Satavahanas established a powerful and long-lasting kingdom, acting as a crucial bridge between the north and the south. Simultaneously, the northwestern part of the subcontinent experienced a series of incursions, leading to the establishment of kingdoms by the Indo-Greeks, who were known for their distinctive coinage.

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They were followed by the Sakas, also known as Saka-Ksatrapas, and later the Kushanas, who created a vast empire stretching from Central Asia into North India. This epoch, therefore, was not one of political vacuum but of vibrant, albeit fragmented, political activity. The rise of these regional entities, including the Indo-Greeks, Sungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas, and Saka-Ksatrapas, marked a definitive shift from a single imperial authority to a multi-state system, each contributing uniquely to the cultural and political fabric of the subcontinent.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What political situation is described as following the dissolution of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) The immediate reunification of India under a new empire
(B) A complete collapse of political structures and urban life
(C) The rise of various regional powers of both indigenous and foreign origin
(D) The establishment of a long-lasting peace across the subcontinent

272. According to the passage, which dynasty succeeded the Mauryas in the Gangetic heartland?
(A) The Satavahanas
(B) The Sungas
(C) The Kushanas
(D) The Indo-Greeks

273. The Satavahanas are described as having established a powerful kingdom in which region?
(A) The northwestern frontier
(B) Central Asia
(C) The deep south
(D) The Deccan

274. The passage mentions the Indo-Greeks, Saka-Ksatrapas, and Kushanas primarily in the context of their activities in:
(A) the northwestern subcontinent.
(B) the southern peninsula.
(C) the eastern coast.
(D) the Gangetic plains.

275. What can be inferred about the post-Mauryan period from the passage?
(A) It was a period of political stagnation and cultural decline.
(B) It saw the complete disappearance of Indian cultural traditions.
(C) It was characterized by a dynamic but fragmented political system.
(D) It was dominated by a single, powerful foreign dynasty.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The polity and society in ancient South India, particularly during the Sangam age, are primarily understood through the lens of Sangam literature. This corpus of classical Tamil texts provides rich details about the social and political organization of the time. The polity was not a unified empire but was characterized by the co-existence of several chiefdoms and kingdoms, most notably those of the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas. These rulers were not absolute monarchs in the Mauryan sense but were chiefs who thrived on warfare, patronage, and the redistribution of resources. The societal structure reflected in this literature appears to have been diverse, with communities organized around kinship, clan, and occupation. The texts describe various social groups, including warriors, priests, farmers, artisans, and fishermen, each with their own customs and roles. Social hierarchy existed, but it may have been more fluid than the rigid varna system of the north. The literature celebrates heroism in battle, the generosity of patrons, and the aesthetics of both courtly life and the natural landscape, offering a unique perspective on a society where kinship ties and personal valour were paramount in shaping the political and social order.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is the principal source of information for the polity and society of the Sangam age, as mentioned in the text?
(A) A body of classical Tamil literature
(B) Asokan edicts found in the south
(C) Accounts of Roman traders
(D) Archaeological evidence from large cities

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277. The political structure in South India during the Sangam age is described as:
(A) a single, unified empire under one dynasty.
(B) a network of democratic city-states.
(C) a territory governed directly by the Mauryan empire.
(D) a system of co-existing chiefdoms and kingdoms.

278. How were the rulers of the Sangam period, such as the Cheras and Cholas, primarily characterized?
(A) As absolute monarchs with a complex bureaucracy
(B) As chiefs focused on warfare, patronage, and redistribution
(C) As divine kings who were worshipped as gods
(D) As elected officials with limited terms of office

279. What does the passage suggest about the social structure reflected in Sangam literature?
(A) It was a rigid and hierarchical system identical to the northern varna model.
(B) It was an egalitarian society with no social distinctions.
(C) It was diverse, with communities organized by kinship and occupation.
(D) It was based on a single, state-mandated religion.

280. Based on the passage, what values were highly esteemed in Sangam society?
(A) Commercial profit and administrative efficiency
(B) Monastic seclusion and scholarly pursuits
(C) Strict adherence to a codified legal system
(D) Heroism in battle and the generosity of patrons

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The period from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE was marked by vigorous trade and commerce, significantly shaping the economic and cultural landscape of the subcontinent. A particularly noteworthy aspect of this commercial activity was the flourishing trade with the Roman World, which led to a substantial influx of Roman gold and silver coins into India, attesting to a favorable balance of trade. This economic prosperity provided a fertile ground for significant religious developments. During this era, Mahayana Buddhism emerged, gaining considerable popularity due to its devotional aspects and the concept of the Bodhisattva, which made the religion more accessible to the laity. The patronage for religious movements was not limited to Buddhism. For instance, King Kharavela of Kalinga, a powerful monarch of this period, is prominently associated with the patronage of Jainism, as evidenced by his famous Hathigumpha inscription. This confluence of brisk international trade and the simultaneous evolution and patronage of diverse religious traditions like Mahayana Buddhism and Jainism illustrates the dynamic interplay between economic prosperity and socio-religious transformations in post-Mauryan India.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. What evidence is cited in the passage for the flourishing trade with the Roman World?
(A) The substantial influx of Roman coins into India
(B) The adoption of the Roman legal system in India
(C) The presence of Roman merchants in Indian royal courts
(D) The construction of Roman-style temples in port cities

282. The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism is linked in the passage to:
(A) a decline in international trade.
(B) an era of economic prosperity.
(C) a period of intense political persecution.
(D) the direct patronage of the Roman Empire.

283. According to the text, what feature of Mahayana Buddhism contributed to its popularity?
(A) Its strict and exclusive monastic rules
(B) Its accessibility to lay followers through devotional concepts
(C) Its focus on a single, supreme deity
(D) Its rejection of all forms of art and iconography

284. King Kharavela is mentioned in the passage as a prominent patron of which religion?

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(A) Jainism
(B) Mahayana Buddhism
(C) Puranic Hinduism
(D) The Roman state religion

285. The passage illustrates a dynamic interplay between which two phenomena in post-Mauryan India?
(A) Military expansion and agricultural decline
(B) Political fragmentation and artistic stagnation
(C) Economic prosperity and socio-religious developments
(D) Technological innovation and social equality

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The post-Mauryan period was an era of remarkable creativity in the field of art and architecture, distinguished by the rise of influential regional schools of sculpture. Among the most prominent were the Gandhara, Mathura, and Amaravati schools, each with its own distinct style and material. The Gandhara school, flourishing in the northwestern region, is noted for its strong Hellenistic or Greco-Roman influence, a result of sustained contact with the West. Sculptors in this tradition primarily used grey or blue-grey schist and depicted scenes from the life of the Buddha in a naturalistic style, often showing him with wavy hair and draped in a toga-like garment. In contrast, the Mathura school developed as a vibrant, indigenous tradition. Using the local red and red-spotted sandstone, artists at Mathura produced images not only of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas but also of Jaina Tirthankaras and various Brahmanical deities. The Mathura Buddha image is characterized by a more robust and energetic form. The Amaravati school, located in the lower Krishna-Godavari valley, is known for its use of white marble and its dynamic, narrative style. Its sculptures are characterized by slender, elegant figures in complex compositions, often depicting Jataka tales with a sense of fluid movement.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. Which school of art is described as showing strong Hellenistic influence and using grey schist?
(A) The Mathura school
(B) The Amaravati school
(C) The Sunga school
(D) The Gandhara school

287. A key characteristic of the Mathura school of art, as mentioned in the passage, is its:
(A) exclusive focus on depicting Jaina Tirthankaras.
(B) use of white marble for all its sculptures.
(C) development as an indigenous tradition using red sandstone.
(D) strong stylistic similarity to the Amaravati school.

288. The passage highlights the Amaravati school for its:
(A) static and monumental depiction of single figures.
(B) dynamic narrative style and use of white marble.
(C) use of grey schist and simple compositions.
(D) realistic portraits of Indo-Greek kings.

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289. What distinguishes the subject matter of the Mathura school from the others mentioned?
(A) It only depicted scenes from the life of the Buddha.
(B) It avoided religious themes in favour of secular portraits.
(C) It exclusively focused on creating sculptures of animals.
(D) It created images for Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical traditions.

290. An art historian observing a sculpture of the Buddha with toga-like drapery and wavy hair would most likely attribute it to which school?
(A) Gandhara
(B) Mathura
(C) Amaravati
(D) Sarnath

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Gupta-Vakataka age witnessed a distinct political and social structure, often seen as a departure from the centralized Mauryan model.

The polity was characterized by a hierarchical system of rule with paramount sovereigns and subordinate feudatory rulers. Society during this period saw the consolidation of Brahmanical norms. The economy remained fundamentally agrarian, but the system of land management underwent significant changes, most notably through the practice of land grants. These grants, often given to Brahmins and religious institutions, created new categories of land rights and intermediaries between the state and the tiller. The state's income was heavily dependent on land revenue, and various forms of land rights emerged, influencing the agrarian structure. The economic prosperity of the era is also reflected in the issuance of a large number of finely crafted Gupta coins, particularly in gold, which suggest a vibrant monetary economy alongside the agrarian base. This period represents a complex interplay of a decentralized political system, a society guided by Puranic Hindu norms, and an agrarian economy increasingly defined by land grants and differentiated land rights.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. How did the polity of the Gupta-Vakataka age differ from the Mauryan model, according to the passage?
(A) It was more centralized and bureaucratic.
(B) It was a democratic republic without a monarch.
(C) It was characterized by a hierarchical system with feudatory rulers.
(D) It completely abandoned the concept of kingship.

292. What significant development in the agrarian economy is highlighted for the Gupta-Vakataka age?
(A) The widespread practice of making land grants.
(B) The complete abolition of land revenue
(C) The introduction of large-scale collective farming
(D) The nationalization of all agricultural land

293. The passage suggests that Gupta coins, especially gold ones, are an indicator of:
(A) a decline in agricultural production.
(B) the complete absence of a barter system.
(C) a trade deficit with foreign powers.
(D) a vibrant monetary economy.

294. What was a major consequence of the system of land grants during this period?
(A) It simplified the revenue collection process.
(B) It led to the creation of new land rights and intermediaries.
(C) It empowered the tiller by giving them direct ownership.
(D) It caused a complete collapse of the agrarian economy.

295. The society of the Gupta-Vakataka age is described as seeing the consolidation of:
(A) Buddhist monastic principles.
(B) a casteless social structure.
(C) Brahmanical and Puranic Hindu norms.
(D) Greek philosophical traditions.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The eras of the Guptas and Harsha were marked by significant cultural and scientific achievements. The Gupta period is particularly noted for the emergence of Puranic Hinduism, which involved the worship of deities like Vishnu and Shiva, and the beginning of temple architecture, with the first structural temples being constructed during this time. This era also represented a golden age for Sanskrit language and literature, with classical norms being firmly established. Furthermore, there were remarkable developments in science, technology, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine, laying the groundwork for future advancements. Later, the reign of Harsha of Vardhana dynasty is notable for its well-organized administration and the king's eclectic religious policies. While a devotee of Shiva, Harsha also extended patronage to Buddhism, famously organizing a grand assembly at Kannauj. In the broader context of post-Gupta India, regional powers held sway in various parts of the country. In Andhradesa, for instance, dynasties such as the Salankayanas and later the Visnukundins established their rule, contributing to the regional political and cultural fabric long before and during the time of larger northern empires, illustrating the co-existence of pan-Indian cultural trends and strong regional polities.

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Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. Which two major religious and architectural developments are attributed to the Gupta period in the passage?
(A) The rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the construction of stupas
(B) The patronage of Jainism and the carving of rock-cut caves
(C) The spread of Zoroastrianism and the building of fire temples
(D) The emergence of Puranic Hinduism and the beginning of temple architecture

297. The passage highlights the Gupta era for remarkable developments in which fields of knowledge?
(A) Science, technology, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine
(B) Military strategy and naval engineering only
(C) Printing technology and paper manufacturing
(D) Democratic philosophy and constitutional law

298. What aspect of Harsha's religious policy is emphasized in the text?
(A) His exclusive patronage of Shaivism
(B) His eclectic approach, patronizing both Shaivism and Buddhism
(C) His persecution of Buddhist monks
(D) His decision to make Buddhism the sole state religion

299. The Salankayanas and Visnukundins are mentioned as examples of:
(A) northern empires that rivaled the Guptas.
(B) regional powers in the Andhradesa region.
(C) foreign invaders during Harsha's time.
(D) literary figures in the court of Harsha.

300. What can be inferred from the mention of Sanskrit literature in the Gupta period and Harsha's assembly at Kannauj?
(A) Cultural and intellectual activities were significant aspects of these reigns.
(B) The use of vernacular languages was completely suppressed.
(C) All scientific developments were recorded exclusively in Greek.
(D) Rulers were indifferent to religious and literary matters.

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ANSWERS

1. (B) Strategic location with rich iron ore deposits and fertile plains.
Magadha's ascent to power was primarily driven by its geographical advantages. The region possessed vast iron ore deposits in Rajgir, which enabled the production of superior weapons and agricultural tools. Additionally, the fertile alluvial soil of the Gangetic plains ensured a steady agricultural surplus to sustain a large standing army. The strategic location of its capitals, Rajgir and Pataliputra, provided natural fortification and control over riverine trade.

2. (A) Superintendents overseeing various economic and civil departments.
In the Mauryan administrative hierarchy, the Adhyakshas served as specialized superintendents who managed various economic and civil departments. These officials were responsible for overseeing sectors such as trade, agriculture, weights and measures, and mining. Their roles were crucial for maintaining state control over the economy and ensuring efficient resource mobilization. They functioned under the guidance of higher ministers to implement the policies outlined in the Kautilyan Arthashastra.

3. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
Alexander's invasion of India in the fourth century BCE facilitated direct contact between the sub-continent and the Greek world. This interaction opened new trade routes and encouraged cultural exchange. Politically, the invasion weakened small northwestern tribes, making it easier for Chandragupta Maurya to unify North India. Furthermore, the introduction of sophisticated Greek numismatic techniques significantly influenced the development of Indian coinage, although the invasion never reached the capital Pataliputra.

4. (D) The varna system was enforced with zero social mobility.
Mauryan society was organized according to the varna system, but it was not entirely rigid or devoid of social mobility. While Megasthenes observed a seven-fold division and Kautilya discussed the existence of slavery, the social structure allowed for some professional transitions. The joint family system remained a fundamental unit of social organization. Asserting that there was absolutely zero social mobility is historically inaccurate, as contemporary records suggest a more complex social dynamic.

5. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Asoka's Dhamma was a comprehensive code of social and ethical conduct aimed at promoting harmony within his diverse empire. It was not a religious dogma but a set of universal principles like non-violence and respect for elders. These ideals were gathered from various religious traditions prevalent at the time, making it acceptable to all subjects regardless of their personal faith. This ethical framework served as a unifying tool for political stability.

6. (B) Prakrit
The majority of Asokan edicts were inscribed in Prakrit, which was the common language of the people during the Mauryan period. Using the vernacular ensured that the moral and administrative messages reached a wide audience across the empire. These inscriptions were primarily written in the Brahmi script, though other scripts were used in the frontier regions. This linguistic choice reflects Asoka's commitment to effective communication and his efforts toward social integration.

(D) The rise of feudalism and the decentralization of power.
The decline of the Mauryan Empire resulted from multiple factors, including financial strain caused by a massive military and administrative expenditure. Asoka's shift toward a peaceful policy may have weakened the military's combat readiness over time. Additionally, the Brahmanical reaction against his pro-Buddhist policies created internal friction. However, the rise of a formal feudal system and widespread decentralization are characteristics associated

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with later periods of Indian history, not the immediate post-Mauryan collapse.

8. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Asokan edicts employed different scripts based on the geographical region to ensure local comprehension. Brahmi was used extensively across the heartland of the empire. In the northwestern regions, the Kharoshthi script was preferred. Aramaic inscriptions have been found along the westernmost borders, while Greek was utilized specifically in the Kandahar region of modern-day Afghanistan. This multilingual approach demonstrates the administrative sophistication and cultural diversity of the vast and highly organized Mauryan state.

9. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Mauryan state maintained centralized control over the economy to maximize revenue and ensure stability. According to the Arthashastra, the state actively participated in agriculture through the management of Sita lands. These were state-owned farms supervised by an official known as the Sitadhyaksha. Beyond farming, the government regulated trade, crafts, and mining. This comprehensive economic involvement supported the vast administrative and military requirements of the first pan-Indian empire in history.

10. (A) Weakened northwestern tribes, facilitating Mauryan expansion.
Alexander's military campaigns in the northwestern frontier of India significantly disrupted the power of local tribes and small autonomous states. By defeating these fragmented political entities, the Greek invasion inadvertently cleared the path for the expansion of the Mauryan Empire. Chandragupta Maurya was able to fill the power vacuum left in the wake of Alexander's departure and death. This unification brought the northwestern regions under a single centralized authority for the first time.

11. (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
The Mauryan administration was a highly organized system with clear divisions of power. The empire was split into provinces and districts for efficient governance. Financial management was handled by the Sannidhata, who served as the chief treasury officer. A hierarchical judiciary existed, providing legal recourse from the village level up to the central courts. While espionage was vital, the Samaharta was actually the tax collector-general, not the chief of the spies.

12. (B) To propagate and supervise the implementation of Dhamma.
Asoka created a specialized cadre of officials known as Dhamma-mahamattas to promote social harmony and moral conduct. Their primary responsibility was to propagate the principles of Dhamma among all sections of society, including different religious communities. They were also tasked with ensuring the welfare of the people and supervising the implementation of the emperor's ethical policies. These officials played a key role in maintaining the religious tolerance advocated by the Mauryan state.

13. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
The sequence of events in early Indian history follows a specific chronological order. Alexander the Great died in 323 BCE, which was shortly followed by the accession of Chandragupta Maurya and the founding of the dynasty. Asoka began his reign several decades later in approximately 268 BCE. Finally, the Kalinga War took place in the eighth year of his reign, around 261 BCE, leading to his subsequent spiritual and political transformation.

14. (D) Mauryan Art
The use of highly polished stone pillars is a defining characteristic of Mauryan artistic tradition. These monolithic columns, often made of Chunar sandstone, feature a unique mirror-like finish known as Mauryan polish. They were typically topped with ornate animal capitals and inscribed with imperial edicts. This craftsmanship represents the first major use of stone in Indian art on such a grand scale, reflecting the power and aesthetic sensibilities of the Mauryan emperors.

15. (D) A is false but R is true.
The disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was not an instantaneous event following Asoka's death but rather a gradual process that spanned nearly half a century. The empire's immense size made it difficult for later rulers to maintain centralized control, especially as provincial governors

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began to assert independence. Additionally, the successors of Asoka lacked his political authority and military vision. These factors, combined with economic pressures and foreign invasions, eventually led to the final collapse of the dynasty.

16. (B) A universal code of general social and ethical conduct.
Asoka's Dhamma is most accurately described as a universal code of social and ethical conduct designed to promote harmony in a diverse society. It emphasized principles such as non-violence, truthfulness, and respect for elders. Rather than being a sectarian religious doctrine, it focused on the practical responsibilities of citizens and rulers alike. This moral framework was intended to transcend religious boundaries and provide a common ground for the peaceful coexistence of different communities.

17. (B) Pushyamitra Sunga
The Mauryan dynasty came to an end when Brihadratha, the final ruler, was assassinated by his own commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Sunga. This event took place during a military parade in approximately 185 BCE. Pushyamitra then established the Sunga dynasty, which marked a resurgence of Brahmanical traditions in North India. This transition represented a significant shift in the political and religious landscape of the subcontinent following the long period of Mauryan dominance and Buddhist patronage.

18. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
Mauryan administration involved various specialized officials to manage the empire's affairs. Rajukas were responsible for land measurement and the administration of justice in rural areas. Yuktas served as subordinate officers involved in revenue collection and accounting. The Gopa managed a small cluster of villages, maintaining census records and tax data. However, the Sthanika was not primarily in charge of city administration; that role was typically held by the Nagarika or a committee of officials.

19. (C) Kharoshthi
The Kharoshthi script was predominantly used for Asokan edicts in the northwestern regions of the empire, such as Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra. Unlike the Brahmi script, which was written from left to right, Kharoshthi was written from right to left. Its usage in these frontier areas highlights the regional diversity and the state's efforts to communicate in scripts familiar to the local population. This script was derived from Aramaic and remained popular in Gandhara for several centuries.

20. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The post-Mauryan period saw the rise of several distinct dynasties across the subcontinent. Menander was the most famous ruler of the Indo-Greeks, known for his dialogues on Buddhism. Kanishka led the Kushana Empire to its peak and patronized Mahayana Buddhism. Rudradaman the first was a prominent ruler of the Western Saka-Ksatrapas, celebrated for his Sanskrit inscriptions. Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty, which established dominance over the Deccan and central regions of India.

21. (C) The deep south, comprising the Tamil country.
Sangam literature is an invaluable source of information regarding the society, economy, and polity of ancient South India, specifically the Tamil country. This body of work, composed in Tamil, provides detailed accounts of the three major kingdoms: the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas. It describes the social hierarchies, maritime trade, and the unique ecological zones known as tinais. The literature offers a vivid window into the cultural and political life of the region during the early historical period.

22. (B) Concept of Bodhisattva and deification of Buddha.
The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism during the post-Mauryan era introduced fundamental changes to the faith. Key developments included the deification of the Buddha, who was now worshipped as a god rather than just a teacher. The concept of the Bodhisattva also became central, emphasizing the ideal of compassionate beings who delay their own nirvana to help others. This period also saw the introduction of idol worship and the use of Sanskrit for recording Buddhist scriptures and philosophical treatises.

23. (D) Satavahana

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Gautamiputra Satakarni was the most powerful ruler of the Satavahana dynasty, which dominated the Deccan region. His reign is noted for the revival of Satavahana power and the defeat of the Sakas. Inscriptions in rock-cut caves, such as those at Nasik and Karle, record his military achievements and generous land grants to Buddhist monasteries. These grants were significant as they included administrative and fiscal immunities, representing early steps toward the feudalization of the Indian agrarian economy.

24. (A) It was a purely indigenous style in themes and form.
The Gandhara School of Art was characterized by a unique synthesis of Indian themes and Greco-Roman artistic styles. While the subject matter was primarily Buddhist, the physical representation of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas often featured Hellenistic traits, such as wavy hair and flowing drapery. The artists predominantly used grey-blue schist stone to create these sculptures. Therefore, it cannot be described as a purely indigenous style, as its very essence was the fusion of foreign and local traditions.

25. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
Between the second century BCE and the third century CE, India enjoyed a flourishing maritime trade with the Roman Empire. The discovery of the monsoon winds by Hippalus allowed ships to cross the Arabian Sea more efficiently. India exported luxury items such as spices, fine textiles, and precious stones to Rome. Contrary to causing a deficit, this trade resulted in a massive inflow of Roman gold coins into India, leading Roman historians like Pliny to lament the drain of wealth.

26. (A) Kharavela
The Hathigumpha inscription, located in the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar, provides a detailed chronological account of the reign of King Kharavela. He belonged to the Mahameghavahana dynasty of Kalinga. The inscription records his military expeditions across various parts of India and his patronage of Jainism. It also mentions his efforts in restoring irrigation works and conducting public welfare projects. This record remains a primary epigraphic source for the history of Kalinga during the first or second century BCE.

27. (D) Sangam literature
The concept of 'Tinais' is a unique feature of the Tamil Sangam literature. It refers to five distinct ecological zones: the mountains, forests, agricultural lands, coastal regions, and arid tracts. Each tinai was associated with specific landscapes, occupations, deities, and themes of love or war. This system reflects the deep connection between the ancient Tamil people and their natural environment. It provides a structured framework for understanding the diverse socio-economic patterns of life in the early Tamil country.

28. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Kushana period, particularly the reign of Kanishka, was a golden age for the Gandhara School of Art. Kanishka was a fervent patron of Mahayana Buddhism, which encouraged the creation of Buddha and Bodhisattva images. This religious shift provided the necessary themes for Gandhara artists, who utilized Greco-Roman techniques to depict Buddhist stories. The resulting sculptures represent a distinct fusion of Eastern philosophy and Western aesthetic forms, marking a significant milestone in the history of Indian art.

29. (C) Mathura used red sandstone, while Gandhara used grey schist.
A primary distinction between the Mathura and Gandhara schools of art lies in the materials and styles they employed. The Mathura school used locally available red-spotted sandstone and developed an indigenous style with deep roots in Indian traditions. In contrast, the Gandhara school focused on the northwestern regions and utilized grey-blue schist stone. Gandhara art was heavily influenced by Greco-Roman styles, resulting in images of the Buddha that featured Western physiological traits, such as wavy hair and muscular frames.

30. (D) An anonymous Greek sailor
The "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" is a vital historical document written in the first century CE. It serves as a navigational guide and a detailed record of trade routes between the Roman Empire and the Indian subcontinent. The text provides specific information about Indian ports, such as Barygaza and Muziris, and lists the

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various commodities exchanged. It was written in Greek by an anonymous sailor who likely possessed firsthand experience of the maritime conditions and commercial practices of the time.

31. (A) Indo-Greeks - Ujjain
During the post-Mauryan era, various dynasties established their power in different regions. The Sungas initially ruled from Pataliputra and later Vidisha. The Satavahanas had their capital at Pratishthana in the Deccan, while the Kushanas established their primary center at Purushapura, also known as Peshawar. The Indo-Greeks, however, primarily ruled from cities like Taxila and Sakala in the northwestern region. Ujjain was a major center for the Sakas and later the Guptas, but not the primary capital for Indo-Greeks.

32. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Sangam literature provides a comprehensive view of South Indian society during the early historical period. It describes the classification of land into five ecological zones known as tinais. The polity was dominated by three major monarchies: the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas. Trade was vibrant, with coastal cities facilitating maritime commerce with foreign regions like Rome. While literature flourished, it was primarily composed in Tamil, not Sanskrit, which only began to exert significant influence in the region during later centuries.

33. (B) Jainism
King Kharavela of Kalinga was a significant patron of Jainism, as clearly documented in the Hathigumpha inscription. His reign saw the construction of numerous dwellings and shelters for Jain monks in the Udayagiri and Khandagiri hills. The inscription records his efforts to recover a sacred Jain idol that had been taken away by a previous Magadhan ruler. His support for the faith highlights the prominence of Jainism in the Kalinga region during the post-Mauryan era, alongside other religious traditions.

34. (A) The Satavahanas and later the Ikshvakus
The Amaravati school of art flourished in the Andhra region, specifically in the lower valleys of the Krishna and Godavari rivers. This school is primarily associated with the patronage of the Satavahana dynasty and their successors, the Ikshvakus. It is renowned for its use of white marble and its dynamic narrative style, often depicting scenes from the life of the Buddha and the Jataka tales. The art is characterized by a sense of movement and elaborate compositions on stupa railings.

35. (A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
The literary and philosophical traditions of ancient India are reflected in several key texts. The Milinda Panha records a dialogue between the Indo-Greek king Menander and the Buddhist monk Nagasena. Gaha Sattasai is a collection of Prakrit poems attributed to the Satavahana king Hala. Tolkappiyam is a fundamental work on Tamil grammar and poetics from the Sangam age. The Divyavadana is a significant Buddhist text composed in Sanskrit. These works provide deep insights into the intellectual life of their respective eras.

36. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Sunga period was indeed marked by a resurgence of Brahmanical traditions, including the performance of ancient Vedic sacrifices such as the Ashvamedha. This was a reaction against the pro-Buddhist policies of the preceding Mauryan era. However, it is historically inaccurate to claim that the Sungas actively persecuted Buddhists. While the state focus shifted, Buddhist monuments like the Sanchi and Bharhut stupas were expanded and renovated during this time, suggesting a degree of religious tolerance and continued artistic patronage.

37. (C) The Kushanas
The Kushana dynasty, particularly under the reign of Vima Kadphises and later Kanishka, is credited with issuing the first gold coins in India on a significant scale. These coins, known as dinaras, were modelled after Roman currency and were of high purity and artistic quality. The issuance of gold currency reflects the economic prosperity of the Kushana Empire, which controlled key segments of the Silk Road and enjoyed a favorable balance of trade with the Roman and Chinese empires.

38. (B) A collection of chiefdoms and three major monarchies.
The political structure of South India during the Sangam era consisted of three major monarchies and numerous smaller chiefdoms. The three

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powerful kings were the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas, known collectively as the Muventar. Below them were the Velir, who served as local chieftains and were often in alliance or conflict with the great kings. This system was characterized by frequent warfare, heroic traditions, and the patronage of poets, rather than a centralized bureaucracy or a series of republics.

39. (D) Use of narrative art depicting dynamic compositions.
The most distinctive feature of the Amaravati school of art is its use of narrative panels characterized by dynamic movement and crowded compositions. Unlike the more static images of the Gandhara or Mathura schools, Amaravati sculptures often depict complex stories from the Jataka tales and the life of the Buddha with a sense of energy and fluid grace. These carvings were typically made using white marble and decorated the railings and drum of the great stupa at Amaravati.

40. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Saka-Ksatrapas of Western India were of Scythian origin and established a long-lasting presence in regions like Malwa and Gujarat. Their most famous ruler, Rudradaman the first, is celebrated for his military successes and the repair of the Sudarshana Lake. The Junagadh rock inscription, written in chaste Sanskrit, is a vital source for his reign. While they interacted with the Kushanas, they were eventually defeated and their territories annexed by the Gupta Empire under Chandragupta the second.

41. (C) Satavahanas
The Satavahana dynasty was the dominant power in the Deccan region following the decline of the Mauryas. They are well-known for their patronage of Prakrit literature, most notably the Gatha Saptasati. Their architectural contributions include the excavation of numerous rock-cut Buddhist chaityas and viharas at sites like Karle, Bhaja, and Kanheri. The Satavahanas also issued a variety of coins and played a crucial role as a bridge between the political and cultural traditions of North and South India.

42. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Between the second century BCE and the third century CE, trade between India and Rome reached its zenith. This brisk commercial activity was fueled by the Roman demand for Indian luxury goods such as pepper, silk, and textiles. Pliny the Elder famously recorded his concern about the massive outflow of Roman gold to India, which he viewed as a drain on the imperial economy. The discovery of large hoards of Roman gold coins across India confirms the veracity of these historical accounts.

43. (D) Ideal of the Bodhisattva helping others to nirvana.
A fundamental doctrinal shift that marked the rise of Mahayana Buddhism was the introduction of the Bodhisattva ideal. Unlike earlier forms of Buddhism that focused on individual liberation, Mahayana emphasized the role of compassionate beings who delay their own nirvana to assist all sentient beings in achieving enlightenment. This shift also involved the deification of the Buddha and the introduction of idol worship and complex rituals. These developments made Buddhism more accessible to the lay population, contributing to its widespread popularity.

44. (B) Indo-Greeks
Coins depicting a king on the obverse and a deity on the reverse, often accompanied by legends in Greek and Karoshthi scripts, are characteristic of the Indo-Greek rulers. These monarchs were the first in India to issue coins that can be clearly attributed to specific kings. Their coinage introduced Hellenistic artistic standards to the subcontinent and significantly influenced later Indian numismatic traditions. The presence of Greek cultural and religious symbols on these coins reflects the unique synthesis of cultures in northwestern India.

45. (A) 3, 1, 2, 4
The history of foreign invasions in ancient India follows a distinct chronological sequence. The Indo-Greeks were the first to establish power in the northwest during the second century BCE. They were followed by the Sakas, or Scythians, in the first century BCE. The Kushanas rose to dominance in the first century CE, creating a vast empire. Much later, during the fifth century CE, the Hunas invaded India, contributing to

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the eventual decline of the Gupta Empire and changing political boundaries.

46. (D) Decentralized system with a network of feudatories.
The polity of the Gupta-Vakataka age is best described as a decentralized system characterized by a hierarchical network of feudatories. Unlike the highly centralized Mauryan model, the Gupta emperors exercised direct control over their core territories while allowing subordinate kings and local chiefs to govern their own regions. These feudatories paid tribute and provided military support in exchange for autonomy. This structure, often termed feudal-federal, was essential for managing a large empire but also made it vulnerable to internal fragmentation.

47. (A) 1 and 3 only
During the Gupta period, the agrarian economy underwent significant changes. The practice of making land grants to Brahmanas and temples, often accompanied by tax exemptions, became very common. The state levied several taxes on agricultural produce, with 'Bhaga' and 'Bali' being prominent examples. While agriculture was the mainstay, the state did play a role in providing irrigation facilities through various local projects. Furthermore, iron tools like the ploughshare were well-known and widely utilized to improve agricultural productivity across the fertile plains.

48. (B) Land granted to Brahmanas, usually tax-free.
An 'Agrahara' was a specific type of land grant made during the Gupta period, primarily to Brahmanas. These grants were typically perpetual and hereditary, and they often came with exemptions from various state taxes and administrative interference. The purpose of these grants was to provide for the maintenance of learned Brahmanas and to encourage the performance of religious duties. Over time, the widespread practice of Agrahara grants contributed to the development of landed intermediaries and the growth of the feudal structure.

49. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Gupta period is widely celebrated as the 'Golden Age' of ancient India due to its remarkable achievements in various intellectual and artistic fields. This era saw the flourishing of Sanskrit literature, the development of sophisticated temple architecture, and groundbreaking discoveries in mathematics and astronomy. However, it is incorrect to describe Gupta society as egalitarian. On the contrary, the caste system became more rigid, and social hierarchies were clearly defined, with the proliferation of numerous sub-castes and the pronounced practice of untouchability.

50. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Gupta period was an era of extraordinary intellectual growth, featuring several legendary scholars. Aryabhata made monumental contributions to astronomy and mathematics, including the concept of zero. Varahamihira authored the Pancha-Siddhantika, which summarized five ancient systems of astronomy and astrology. Sushruta is celebrated for his foundational work on medicine and surgery. Kalidasa, one of the greatest poets and dramatists, composed timeless literary masterpieces like the Shakuntala. These scholars together represent the peak of ancient Indian scientific and artistic achievement.

51. (C) The complete abandonment of Vedic rituals and sacrifices.
The emergence of Puranic Hinduism during the Gupta period was marked by the rise of Bhakti, the worship of the holy trinity, and the compilation of the Puranas. This period saw a shift toward devotion and image worship as primary forms of religious practice. However, this did not mean the complete abandonment of Vedic traditions. Vedic rituals and sacrifices, such as the Ashvamedha, continued to be performed by kings to legitimize their authority, demonstrating a synthesis of older Vedic and newer Puranic elements.

52. (D) Gupta-Vakataka Age
The Gupta-Vakataka age represents a crucial transition in the history of Indian architecture. During this period, the focus shifted from rock-cut cave shrines to the construction of free-standing structural temples. These early temples were simple in design, featuring a square sanctum and a pillared porch. This development laid the foundation for the elaborate temple styles that characterized medieval India. The move toward structural temples reflects the growing importance of image worship and the

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institutionalization of religious practices within the Hindu tradition.

53. (C) Gold Dinaras showed high artistic merit and purity.
Gupta coinage is renowned for its exceptional artistic quality and the extensive use of gold. The gold coins, known as dinaras, featured intricate designs depicting the emperor in various poses, such as a warrior, musician, or hunter. The legends on these coins were written in classical Sanskrit using the Brahmi script. While they were influenced by Kushana coinage, the Gupta coins reached new heights of aesthetic excellence. This abundant gold currency serves as a testament to the economic prosperity and cultural sophistication of the Gupta Empire.

54. (B) The Gupta Period
The Gupta period witnessed revolutionary advancements in the field of mathematics. Indian mathematicians of this era established the concept of zero as a distinct number and developed the place-value decimal system. These innovations were later transmitted to the Arab world and eventually to Europe, fundamentally transforming global mathematical thought. The work of scholars like Aryabhata provided a solid theoretical foundation for these concepts, which allowed for complex calculations in astronomy and commerce, representing a pinnacle of ancient scientific achievement in the subcontinent.

55. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Land rights and revenue systems during the Gupta-Vakataka period were complex. The king was theoretically the ultimate owner of all land, though private and communal rights also existed. Various taxes were levied, including 'Uparikara', which was collected from temporary tenants. The practice of making land grants to Brahmanas and officials created a class of landed intermediaries between the state and the peasantry. Contrary to being fixed at one-tenth, the state's share of the produce typically ranged from one-fourth to one-sixth.

56. (A) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
Kalidasa, the most renowned Sanskrit poet and dramatist of ancient India, is traditionally associated with the court of Chandragupta the second, also known as Vikramaditya. He is said to have been one of the 'nine gems' who adorned the imperial court. Kalidasa's works, such as Meghaduta and Abhijnanashakuntalam, reflect the refined cultural atmosphere and sophisticated artistic tastes of the Gupta era. His poetry and plays remain the highest examples of classical Sanskrit literature, showcasing the period's intellectual and creative brilliance.

57. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The widespread practice of land grants to Brahmanas and officials was a defining feature of the Gupta-Vakataka period. These grants, often made in peripheral or undeveloped regions, played a crucial role in the expansion of agricultural activities. By providing resources and authority to the grantees, the state encouraged the clearing of forests and the introduction of new farming techniques. Furthermore, these grants helped integrate tribal communities into the agrarian economy and the Brahmanical social framework, facilitating territorial and cultural consolidation.

58. (A) Ashtadhyayi by Panini
The Gupta period was a time of prolific literary and scientific output, but not all famous ancient works belong to this era. Kalidasa's Meghaduta and Shudraka's Mrichchhakatika are quintessential examples of Gupta-age literature. Aryabhata's Aryabhatiya represents the period's scientific advancement. In contrast, the Ashtadhyayi, a foundational work on Sanskrit grammar by Panini, was composed much earlier, likely during the fourth century BCE. Panini's work provided the grammatical framework upon which the sophisticated Sanskrit literature of the Gupta period was built.

59. (D) Gupta period
The Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is one of the finest surviving examples of early structural temple architecture from the Gupta period. Built in the sixth century CE, it features a square sanctum and beautiful stone carvings depicting various incarnations of Lord Vishnu. The temple also shows the early development of the shikhara or tower, which became a standard feature of later Hindu temples. Its ornate doorway and sculpted panels reflect the high artistic standards and religious devotion that characterized the Gupta era.

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60. (B) Feudal-federal structure of the Guptas.
The political system under Harshavardhana was largely a continuation and modification of the feudal-federal structure established by the Guptas. Harsha's empire was a loosely-knit federation where the central authority was maintained through a network of subordinate kings and feudatories. These local rulers were allowed to govern their own territories as long as they paid tribute and provided military support. This system relied heavily on the personal authority and constant supervision of the monarch, as seen in Harsha's frequent tours across his kingdom.

61. (C) Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)
Xuanzang, the celebrated Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, visited India in the seventh century CE during the reign of Harshavardhana. He spent several years studying at the Nalanda University and traveling across the subcontinent. His detailed travelogue, the Si-Yu-Ki, provides an invaluable eyewitness account of the political, social, and religious conditions of Harsha's India. Xuanzang's writings highlight Harsha's patronage of Buddhism and the grandeur of the religious assemblies at Kanauj and Prayaga, making him a primary source for this period.

62. (C) 1, 3 and 4 only
During the Gupta age, Indian society witnessed significant changes. The caste system became increasingly rigid, with the emergence of numerous sub-castes based on occupation. The practice of untouchability also became more pronounced, affecting the social status of lower groups. Furthermore, the first epigraphic evidence for the practice of Sati appears in an inscription from Eran dated to 510 CE. While women in royal families held some influence, the overall position of women in society generally saw a decline during this period.

63. (A) Andhradesa
The Salankayanas and Visnukundins were significant regional dynasties that ruled over parts of Andhradesa following the decline of the Ikshvakus. The Salankayanas ruled from Vengi and were known for their devotion to the Sun god. They were eventually succeeded by the Visnukundins, who expanded their influence over larger parts of the Andhra region. Both dynasties were patrons of Brahmanical traditions and contributed to the development of early temple and cave architecture in the region, serving as important links between major historical eras.

64. (B) Patron of Buddhism, but tolerant of other sects.
Harshavardhana's religious policy was characterized by personal devotion to Buddhism combined with broad tolerance for other faiths. While he was a great patron of the Mahayana school and supported the Nalanda University, he also showed respect for Brahmanical traditions. Harsha regularly organized grand assemblies where scholars from different religious backgrounds were invited to debate. His five-yearly assemblies at Prayaga involved the distribution of wealth among Buddhists, Brahmanas, and followers of other sects alike, demonstrating his commitment to a pluralistic religious environment.

65. (B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
The post-Mauryan and Gupta periods saw various dynasties exercising influence over specific regions. The Sungas followed the Mauryas in Magadha and parts of central India. The Vakatakas were a major power in the Deccan, serving as contemporaries and allies to the Guptas. Harshavardhana established a large empire in northern India with Kanauj as his primary capital. The Visnukundins were a significant regional power in Andhradesa. Understanding the geographical reach of these dynasties is crucial for tracing the political evolution of the Indian subcontinent.

66. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Visnukundins, who ruled in Andhradesa, were significant patrons of both religious traditions and artistic endeavors. They demonstrated their commitment to Vedic Brahmanism by performing various ancient sacrifices, including the Ashvamedha, which served to legitimize their royal authority. Simultaneously, they contributed to the architectural heritage of the region by carving elaborate cave temples at sites like Undavalli and Mogalrajapuram. These rock-cut structures, featuring religious imagery, showcase the high level of craftsmanship and the diverse cultural patronage that characterized the Visnukundin dynasty.

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67. (C) Tendency to pay officials with land grants.
Harsha's administration reflected the growing trend toward decentralization and the feudalization of the state apparatus. A key feature of his system was the practice of paying high-ranking officials and priests with land grants instead of cash salaries. These grants often included the right to collect revenue and exercise administrative authority over the land. This practice reduced the state's direct control over local resources and contributed to the rise of a powerful class of landed intermediaries, a hallmark of the early medieval polity.

68. (D) Vengi
The Salankayanas were a regional power that ruled in the coastal Andhra region between the Krishna and Godavari rivers during the fourth and fifth centuries CE. Their capital was located at Vengi, near modern-day Eluru. They were known as patrons of Brahmanical culture and were specifically devoted to the Sun god, whom they referred to as Chitraratha Svami. The Salankayanas played an important role in the political transition of the Andhra region before the rise of the Visnukundins and the Eastern Chalukyas.

69. (C) Mudrarakshasa
Harshavardhana was not only a powerful ruler but also a talented author credited with writing several famous Sanskrit plays. His works include Ratnavali, Priyadarsika, and Nagananda, which are noted for their poetic quality and dramatic themes. In contrast, Mudrarakshasa is a historical play written by Vishakhadatta, likely during the Gupta period. Mudrarakshasa deals with the political intrigues involved in the rise of Chandragupta Maurya and the strategies of his advisor Chanakya, making it distinct from the literary contributions of Emperor Harsha.

70. (A) 1 and 2 only
Harshavardhana's reign was marked by several significant political and religious events. He famously transferred his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj, making it the new political center of North India. He also convened a grand religious assembly at Kanauj to honor the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang. While he was a powerful monarch, he suffered a notable defeat against the Chalukya king Pulakesin the second. Furthermore, the biography 'Harshacharita' was authored by his court poet Banabhatta, not by the emperor himself.

71. (D) Mauryan
The monolithic lion capital of Sarnath is one of the most famous examples of Mauryan art. Carved from a single block of polished Chunar sandstone during the reign of Asoka, it originally stood atop a pillar at the site of Buddha's first sermon. The capital features four lions sitting back-to-back, symbolizing the spread of Dhamma. Due to its historical significance and artistic excellence, it was adopted as the National Emblem of India in 1950, representing the nation's ancient heritage.

72. (A) Gudhapurushas
The Mauryan state maintained a sophisticated and extensive espionage system as detailed in Kautilya's Arthashastra. Spies, known as Gudhapurushas, were categorized into stationary agents and wandering agents. They were employed to monitor the activities of officials, citizens, and even members of the royal family. This network provided the king with vital intelligence to maintain internal security and detect potential rebellions. The efficient use of espionage was a key factor in the centralized and highly controlled nature of the Mauryan administrative system.

73. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Alexander's invasion, while short-lived, had a lasting impact on Indian culture through the interaction between Greek and Indian traditions. This influence is most visible in the Gandhara school of art, where Greek sculptural techniques were used to depict Buddhist themes. Additionally, contact with the Greek world introduced several Hellenistic concepts to Indian astronomy, which were later refined by scholars like Varahamihira. These interactions demonstrate how military invasions could facilitate significant cultural and scientific exchanges that enriched both civilizations over several centuries.

74. (A) Forced labour or labour tax.
The term 'Vishti' refers to forced labor or a labor tax that was prevalent in ancient India, particularly during the Mauryan and Gupta periods. It was a form of tax paid in the form of

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labor rather than cash or produce. Peasants and artisans were often required to work on state projects, such as the construction of roads, dams, or royal buildings, without direct payment. This practice reflects the extensive control the state exercised over the labor force to fulfill its diverse administrative and infrastructural needs.

75. (D) The Pillar Edict at Allahabad-Kosam.
The Pillar Edict at Allahabad-Kosam is famously known as the Queen's Edict. It is unique among Asokan inscriptions because it specifically mentions the charitable deeds of his second queen, Karuvaki. The edict instructs officials to record all gifts made by the queen, such as mango groves, almshouses, and gardens, in her name. This inscription provides a rare glimpse into the personal lives and religious activities of the Mauryan royal family and the status of queens within the imperial administrative framework.

76. (B) The Indo-Greeks
Following the decline of the Mauryan Empire in the second century BCE, the northwestern regions of India experienced a period of political instability. This vacuum was eventually filled by the Indo-Greeks, who crossed the Hindu Kush and established several kingdoms in the region. They were the first foreign group to rule parts of the Indian subcontinent after Alexander's departure. The Indo-Greeks played a significant role in introducing Hellenistic cultural and artistic influences, which significantly impacted the subsequent development of Indian art.

77. (C) Devotion and image worship of Vishnu and Shiva.
The rise of Puranic Hinduism represented a significant evolution in Indian religious practice, moving away from the complex Vedic rituals toward a more personal form of faith. This transition was characterized by the growth of the Bhakti movement, which emphasized deep devotion to a personal deity. Central to this development was the worship of the holy trinity—Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva—and the practice of image worship in temples. These changes were codified in the Puranas, making the religion more accessible to the wider population.

78. (B) 1, 2 and 4 only
The Satavahana dynasty played a crucial role in ancient Indian history as a dominant power in the Deccan. They are often identified with the 'Andhras' mentioned in the Puranas. Their empire served as a vital cultural and economic bridge between the northern and southern parts of the subcontinent. Gautamiputra Satakarni was their most powerful ruler, celebrated for restoring the dynasty's prestige. While they issued coins, they were eventually succeeded by the Ikshvakus and Vakatakas in the Deccan, rather than the Guptas.

79. (A) The timing of the monsoon winds.
In the first century CE, maritime trade across the Arabian Sea was greatly facilitated by the discovery and understanding of the monsoon winds. Traditionally attributed to the Greek navigator Hippalus, this knowledge allowed traders to sail directly across the open sea instead of following the coastline. By timing their departures with the seasonal winds, ships from ports like Barygaza could reach the Roman world more quickly and safely. This advancement was a key factor in the brisk commercial exchange between India and the West.

80. (B) The Buddha and Bodhisattvas
The Mathura School of art is historically significant for being one of the first centers to create human images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas. Flourishing during the Kushana period, this school used local red-spotted sandstone to develop an indigenous style of sculpture. The Mathura artists depicted the Buddha with distinct Indian features, moving away from the purely symbolic representations of earlier periods. This development occurred almost simultaneously with the Gandhara school, marking a major shift in Buddhist practice toward image worship and devotion.

81. (B) Sunga
The Sunga dynasty succeeded the Mauryas in Magadha following the assassination of Brihadratha by Pushyamitra Sunga in approximately 185 BCE. The Sungas are historically associated with a resurgence of Brahmanical traditions after the long period of Buddhist patronage under the Mauryas. Pushyamitra is recorded to have performed several Vedic sacrifices, including the Ashvamedha,

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to consolidate his power. Despite this shift, the Sunga period also witnessed significant artistic activity, as seen in the renovation and expansion of major Buddhist stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut.

82. (C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Sangam literature describes five unique ecological zones, each associated with a specific landscape and lifestyle. Kurinji refers to the hilly and mountainous regions, while Mullai represents the pastoral tracts. Marutam consists of fertile agricultural plains, and Neithal covers the coastal areas. The fifth zone, Palai, represents arid or desert-like land. This classification system, known as tinais, provided a framework for poets to depict the diverse socio-economic life and cultural traditions of the ancient Tamil people in the deep south.

83. (C) A system of feudalism
During the Gupta period, the practice of issuing land grants to Brahmanas and high-ranking officials became widespread. These grants often included fiscal and administrative immunities, giving the grantees the right to collect taxes and maintain local order. This process created a class of landed intermediaries between the state and the peasantry, leading to a decentralized political structure. Many historians view this development as the beginning of a feudal system in India, as it shifted power from the central authority to local landlords and religious institutions.

84. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Kushana king Kanishka is one of the most prominent figures in ancient Indian history. He is widely credited with establishing the Saka Era beginning in 78 CE, which remains an official calendar system in India. Kanishka was also a fervent patron of Mahayana Buddhism and convened the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir to resolve doctrinal differences. His reign saw the empire reach its greatest extent and witnessed a flourishing of art and culture, particularly the development of the Gandhara and Mathura schools.

85. (A) 1, 3, 4, 2
These ancient Indian texts were composed across different historical periods. The Arthashastra is the earliest, likely written during the Mauryan era or shortly after. Tolkappiyam, the foundational work on Tamil grammar, dates back to the early centuries of the Common Era. The Aryabhatiya was composed by the mathematician Aryabhata during the Gupta period in the late fifth century. Finally, the Harshacharita was written by Banabhatta in the seventh century CE, during the reign of Harshavardhana, making it the latest among these listed works.

86. (B) He successfully defeated the Chalukyan king Pulakesin II on the banks of the Narmada.
Harshavardhana was a notable patron of learning, and under his support, the Nalanda University became a world-renowned center of excellence. He also organized grand religious assemblies at Kanauj and Prayaga to promote spiritual discourse and charity. His court poet Banabhatta recorded his achievements in the biography 'Harshacharita'. However, his military ambitions in the south were checked by the Chalukyan king Pulakesin the second. Contrary to achieving victory, Harsha suffered a significant defeat on the banks of the Narmada river, halting his southern expansion.

87. (D) Ajanta Caves
The Vakataka dynasty, who ruled the Deccan as contemporaries and allies of the Guptas, are celebrated for their significant patronage of rock-cut architecture. They were primarily responsible for the second phase of excavation at the Ajanta Caves, which includes some of the most exquisite Buddhist viharas and chaityas. Under the Vakatakas, Ajanta became a major center of both art and religion, featuring sophisticated murals and intricate sculptures. These artistic achievements represent the peak of classical Indian art and provide deep insights into the spiritual life of the era.

88. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins that can be definitively attributed to specific kings, significantly influencing future Indian numismatics. They also introduced Hellenistic artistic features, which contributed to the development of the Gandhara school of art. Their most famous ruler, Menander, is known for his conversion to Buddhism following his dialogues with the monk Nagasena. Their rule was not limited to the west of the Indus but extended into the Punjab and they maintained

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several regional centers rather than a single capital.

89. (C) Absorption of foreign groups and local tribes into the Brahmanical framework.
During the Gupta period, the caste system underwent significant expansion and became more rigid. A primary reason for the proliferation of sub-castes, or jatis, was the integration of numerous foreign groups and local tribes into the existing Brahmanical social structure. As these groups were assimilated, they were often assigned specific professional roles and given a place within the varna hierarchy. This process allowed the Brahmanical system to expand and adapt to a diverse population while maintaining its fundamental social order and preserving distinct communal identities.

90. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Gupta emperors issued an unprecedented number of gold coins, which are celebrated for their high artistic quality and intricate designs. This abundant issuance of gold currency was made possible by the empire's prosperous economy. Surplus agricultural production and flourishing internal and external trade, especially with the Roman world, brought immense wealth into the imperial treasury. This economic stability allowed the Guptas to sustain a high standard of coinage, which served as a symbol of their political power and the cultural brilliance of their Golden Age.

91. (D) Bhukti, Vishaya, Pathaka
During the reign of Harshavardhana, the administration was organized into several hierarchical units for efficient governance. The largest administrative division was the 'Bhukti', which was equivalent to a province. The Bhuktis were further divided into districts known as 'Vishayas', which were then subdivided into smaller units called 'Pathakas'. The village remained the basic unit of administration at the lowest level. This structured approach to regional governance allowed the central authority to maintain control over the vast territories of the empire through a network of local officials.

92. (B) A monarchy patronizing Brahmanism and cave architecture.
The polity of the Visnukundins, who ruled in Andhradesa after the decline of the Ikshvakus, was a traditional monarchy. They were staunch patrons of Vedic Brahmanism and demonstrated their devotion through the performance of numerous sacrifices, including the Ashvamedha. Simultaneously, they encouraged artistic endeavors, particularly the excavation of rock-cut cave temples at sites like Undavalli. Their rule was characterized by a synthesis of religious traditionalism and a flourishing of regional art, serving as a vital link between the ancient and early medieval periods of South Indian history.

93. (C) The love and tragedy of Kannagi and Kovalan.
'Silappadikaram', one of the five great epics of Tamil literature, tells the poignant story of Kannagi and her husband Kovalan. The narrative follows their journey from Puhar to Madurai, where Kovalan is unjustly executed by the Pandya king. Kannagi's subsequent quest for justice and her ultimate transformation into a goddess of chastity form the core of the epic. Composed by Ilango Adigal, this work provides vivid details about the society, culture, and urban life of the three major South Indian kingdoms during the Sangam age.

94. (D) A eulogy of the military conquests and achievements of Samudragupta.
The 'prashasti' of the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, composed by Harisena, is a brilliant eulogy of the Gupta emperor Samudragupta. Written in classical Sanskrit, it provides a detailed list of his military conquests across North and South India. The inscription describes how he defeated numerous kings, annexed territories, and forced others into subordinate alliances. It also praises his intellectual and artistic talents, portraying him as a legendary warrior and a patron of culture. This record remains a primary source for understanding the expansion and political ideology of the Gupta Empire.

95. (A) High-ranking officials, including various ministers and administrators.
In the Mauryan administrative system, the 'Amatyas' were high-ranking civil servants who formed the backbone of the government. They were selected through rigorous examinations and served in various capacities, including as ministers, judicial officers, and provincial

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administrators. Their roles were essential for implementing the king's policies and maintaining the complex machinery of the state. The Arthashastra emphasizes the importance of loyal and capable Amatyas for the stability and prosperity of the empire, highlighting the professionalized nature of Mauryan governance and the state's focus on efficient administration.

96. (B) Kushanas
The two-humped Bactrian camel is a symbol frequently associated with the Kushana dynasty, reflecting their Central Asian origins. This animal is often depicted on Kushana coins and in the art of the period, particularly in Gandhara sculpture. The Kushanas originated from the Yuezhi tribes of Central Asia and maintained strong links with the regions along the Silk Road. The inclusion of the Bactrian camel in their iconography highlights the importance of transcontinental trade and the nomadic heritage that influenced the cultural and economic life of their vast empire.

97. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Gupta period witnessed a significant milestone in Indian architecture with the beginning of free-standing stone temples. These early structures, such as the temple at Sanchi, were typically small and simple, featuring a square sanctum and a pillared porch. Contrary to being large and elaborate like medieval structures, they were modest in scale and lacked the towering shikharas that became common later. This period represents the experimental phase where architectural principles were first applied to permanent stone buildings, laying the groundwork for more complex temple designs in subsequent centuries.

98. (B) 1, 3 and 5 only
Harshavardhana's administration was characterized by several distinct features. The king was deeply involved in governance and frequently toured his territories to supervise officials and resolve local issues. The state maintained a massive army consisting of infantry, cavalry, and elephants to ensure security. A notable development during this period was the increasing practice of paying officials through land grants rather than cash salaries. Furthermore, the administration was not purely centralized but relied on a network of feudatories, and the legal system was known for its severity rather than leniency.

99. (C) It records Asoka's visit to Buddha's birthplace and tax reductions.
The Rummindei Pillar Inscription is of great historical importance as it marks Asoka's visit to Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha. The inscription records that the emperor performed religious rites and, out of respect for the holy site, reduced the land tax for the village from one-sixth to one-eighth. He also exempted the village from certain other fiscal burdens. This edict provides epigraphic evidence for the historical Buddha's birth and demonstrates Asoka's personal religious commitment and his administrative policy of providing welfare to sacred locations.

100. (C) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
These ancient Indian sites are associated with specific historical and architectural features. Sarnath is a major Buddhist center where the monolithic Mauryan Lion Capital was discovered. Deogarh is famous for its early structural Dashavatara Temple from the Gupta period. Undavalli features unique rock-cut shrines carved during the reign of the Visnukundins in Andhradesa. Barygaza, or Bharuch, was a crucial port that played a significant role in maritime trade with the Roman Empire. These locations together represent the diverse cultural and economic heritage of ancient and early medieval India.

101. (C) The Magadhan monarchy
The transition from a local state to an empire in ancient India is best exemplified by the rise of the Magadhan monarchy. Over several centuries, Magadha transformed from one of the sixteen mahajanapadas into a dominant imperial power. This growth was driven by ambitious rulers, a fertile economic base, and strategic geographical advantages. Under the Mauryas, Magadha achieved the status of a pan-Indian empire, bringing most of the subcontinent under a single administrative and political umbrella, which marked a new phase in the history of Indian state formation.

102. (B) The head of a merchant caravan.

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In the Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods, the term 'Sarthavaha' referred to the head of a merchant caravan. These individuals played a crucial role in long-distance internal and external trade, navigating through difficult terrains and ensuring the safety of goods. The Sarthavahas were influential members of the merchant community and often held high social and economic status. Their activities facilitated the exchange of commodities across different regions, contributing to the commercial prosperity of the empire and the growth of urban centers as vital nodes in the trade network.

103. (D) Asoka
Asoka is credited with expanding the Mauryan Empire to its greatest geographical extent, covering almost the entire Indian subcontinent except for the extreme southern tip. He inherited a vast empire from his grandfather Chandragupta and his father Bindusara, and he further added Kalinga through a major military campaign. Following his conquest of Kalinga, Asoka shifted from military expansion to a policy of cultural and ethical influence. His reign represented the peak of Mauryan power and the first time such a large portion of the subcontinent was united under a single ruler.

104. (A) An ethical code promoting social harmony and general welfare.
Asoka's Dhamma is most accurately described as an ethical code designed to promote social harmony and general welfare across his diverse empire. It was not a sectarian religion but a set of universal moral principles such as non-violence, truthfulness, and tolerance. By encouraging citizens to treat one another with respect and follow a path of righteous conduct, Asoka aimed to create a stable and peaceful society. This policy was propagated through inscriptions and a special cadre of officials, reflecting the state's commitment to moral and social responsibility.

105. (C) Mauryan
The Mauryan period witnessed significant advancements in urban infrastructure, including the widespread use of burnt bricks and the introduction of ring wells. Ring wells were used for both drainage and as sources of water in congested city environments, representing a major technological improvement in sanitation. The use of durable burnt bricks allowed for more substantial and permanent constructions compared to earlier eras. These features indicate a sophisticated level of urban planning and a high degree of state-organized developmental activities that characterized the growth of cities like Pataliputra during the Mauryan age.

106. (A) Weak successors, vast territory, and internal rebellions.
The political disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was caused by a combination of internal and external factors. After the death of Asoka, a series of weak successors struggled to maintain centralized control over the vast and diverse territories of the empire. Provincial governors began to assert their independence, and internal rebellions further weakened the state's authority. These domestic issues were exacerbated by economic pressures and the threat of foreign invasions from the northwest. Consequently, the empire rapidly fragmented into several smaller regional powers, leading to its final collapse in the second century BCE.

107. (D) Brahmi and Kharoshthi
While Asokan edicts were primarily written in Brahmi across the heartland of India, the empire's multicultural frontiers required the use of different scripts. In the northwestern regions, Kharoshthi was commonly used, reflecting the area's historical connections with Aramaic traditions. In some specific frontier locations like Kandahar, inscriptions were even found in Greek and Aramaic, indicating the presence of a diverse population and the state's efforts to communicate in languages understood by its subjects. This linguistic and epigraphic variety highlights the administrative flexibility and the expansive, cosmopolitan nature of the Mauryan Empire at its borders.

108. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
The art and architecture of the post-Mauryan period were marked by significant creative achievements. Stupas at sites like Sanchi and Bharhut were expanded with elaborate gateways featuring intricate carvings. Distinct schools of sculpture, including Gandhara, Mathura, and Amaravati, flourished, introducing new styles and human representations of the Buddha. In the Western Deccan, numerous rock-cut Buddhist

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chaityas and viharas were excavated. However, free-standing structural temples only began to be perfected later during the Gupta period, and artistic patronage came from various sources, including royal courts, merchant guilds, and individuals.

109. (C) Mauryan provincial governors.
While the deep south remained largely independent, Mauryan influence extended into parts of the Deccan through provincial administration. The northern regions of what is today Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were governed by Mauryan officials and are mentioned in Asokan edicts. These provincial centers were crucial for managing trade routes and mineral resources. In the Tamil country further south, the political scene was dominated by the three crowned kings—Chera, Chola, and Pandya—rather than direct Mauryan rule. However, the presence of Mauryan governors in the adjacent Deccan regions significantly impacted the political and cultural dynamics of the southern subcontinent.

110. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Kushanas were instrumental in the history of the Silk Road due to their strategic location at the crossroads of major ancient civilizations. Their empire bridged the gap between Central Asia and North India, effectively controlling the overland trade routes that connected China with the Roman Empire and the Mediterranean world. By providing security and standardized coinage, the Kushanas facilitated a brisk exchange of goods, ideas, and religions. This control over international commerce was a primary source of their immense wealth and political influence, making them a key power in the ancient world.

111. (A) Emphasis on achieving individual Arhatship as the highest goal.
Mahayana Buddhism introduced several features that distinguished it from the earlier Theravada tradition. It emphasized the ideal of the Bodhisattva, a being who delays nirvana to help others, rather than the individual goal of Arhatship. Other key characteristics included the deification of the Buddha, the introduction of image worship, and the increasing use of Sanskrit for religious texts. Mahayana presented a more accessible path to salvation for the lay population, moving away from the purely monastic focus of achieving individual liberation, which was the central objective of the more traditional schools of Buddhism.

112. (B) His patronage of Buddhism.
The Hathigumpha inscription provides a detailed chronological record of King Kharavela of Kalinga and highlights his role as a great patron of various religious traditions. While he is traditionally associated with Jainism and the construction of dwellings for Jain monks, the inscription also mentions his efforts to honor all sects and his restoration of numerous religious structures. His patronage extended beyond a single faith, reflecting the religious pluralism of the era. The inscription remains a vital source for understanding how royal authority was expressed through religious support and public welfare projects in the post-Mauryan period.

113. (B) The complete nationalization of all agricultural land.
During the Gupta-Vakataka age, the agrarian economy experienced a significant development through the widespread practice of making land grants. The king, as the theoretical owner of all land, granted Agrahara and Devadana plots to Brahmanas and religious institutions. These grants often included fiscal and administrative rights, creating a network of landed intermediaries. This system encouraged the expansion of agriculture into new areas and the integration of tribal regions into the state economy. Contrary to nationalization, these grants decentralized land control, marking a move toward a more complex and hierarchical social and economic structure in the countryside.

114. (A) Varahamihira - Author of Brihat Samhita
The Gupta period was a time of significant literary and scientific achievements with many iconic works. Varahamihira, a famous astronomer and mathematician, authored the Brihat Samhita, a comprehensive encyclopedia of various sciences. In contrast, the Charaka Samhita was composed much earlier, and the biography 'Harshacharita' was written by Banabhatta during Harsha's reign, long after the main Gupta period. Kalidasa is celebrated for works like Meghaduta and Shakuntala, but

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he did not author the Harshacharita. These distinctions help in correctly attributing the intellectual contributions of different scholars to their respective historical eras.

115. (C) The Sunga period
The evolution of Hindu temple architecture began with simple structures during the post-Mauryan era, particularly during the Sunga period. These early shrines moved away from rock-cut designs toward basic free-standing forms. They typically featured a flat-roofed, square sanctum preceded by a small pillared porch. While modest compared to the elaborate temples of later centuries, these designs represent the initial experiments in building structural homes for deities. This development laid the essential foundation for the more sophisticated architectural styles that emerged during the Gupta period and reached their full glory in the medieval age.

116. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
Harshavardhana's empire was not a tightly centralized state like the earlier Mauryan model. Instead, it was a loosely-knit federation comprising several subordinate kings and chieftains who acknowledged his suzerainty. These feudatories provided military service and paid tribute but retained considerable autonomy in their own territories. Harsha did not exercise direct administrative control over the entire subcontinent; his influence was primarily concentrated in northern India. His power relied heavily on personal loyalty and frequent imperial tours, demonstrating the more decentralized and feudal nature of the political system during the seventh century CE.

117. (A) The Andhra country after the decline of the Ikshvakus.
The Salankayanas and Visnukundins were regional dynasties that rose to prominence in the Andhra country following the decline of the Ikshvaku dynasty. They filled the political vacuum in the region and maintained authority during a period of transition. The Salankayanas ruled from Vengi, while the Visnukundins later expanded their control across larger parts of Andhradesa. Both dynasties were significant patrons of Brahmanical culture and early rock-cut and structural architecture, serving as important bridge powers before the rise of more dominant South Indian empires like the Pallavas and Chalukyas.

118. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Gupta-Vakataka age was a period of great cultural and religious transformation. It saw a flourishing of Sanskrit literature and the emergence of Puranic Hinduism, centered on the concept of the holy trinity. In architecture, the Nagara style of structural temples was perfected. While this era is famous for its high-quality gold coins, it was not the first to issue them, as the Kushanas had introduced gold currency earlier. Additionally, foreign trade continued to play a role, although the nature of commercial exchanges shifted as the Roman Empire's influence began to decline.

119. (A) The lustrous polish, often called Mauryan polish.
A defining and remarkable feature of Mauryan art, especially on pillars and animal capitals, is the exceptional lustrous polish. This technique, often referred to as Mauryan polish, gave the stone surface a mirror-like finish that remains vibrant even today. The polish was applied to monolithic pillars made of Chunar sandstone, representing a high level of craftsmanship and technical expertise. This unique aesthetic characteristic distinguishes Mauryan sculpture from the art of later periods and served to enhance the grandeur of imperial monuments and religious symbols across the empire.

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120. (A) Opening of land and sea routes between India and the West.
One of the most significant and lasting effects of Alexander's invasion was the establishment of several land and sea routes connecting the Indian subcontinent with the Western world. These routes facilitated increased trade and cultural exchange between India, Persia, and the Mediterranean for centuries. While Alexander's military presence was relatively brief, the infrastructure and geographic knowledge gained during his campaigns paved the way for future interactions. This opening of the subcontinent encouraged the movement of goods, ideas, and people, significantly impacting the economic and cultural history of both the East and the West.

121. (C) The guild of merchants

In the Mauryan administrative and economic structure, the 'Parishad' often referred to a council or an assembly. While the term was used for the king's council of ministers, it also applied to merchant and craft guilds that managed economic activities in urban centers. These guilds were self-governing bodies that regulated trade, set quality standards, and provided social security to their members. The state exercised some supervision over these organizations, but they maintained significant autonomy. This system highlights the importance of institutionalized commercial interests in the urban life and economic stability of the Mauryan Empire.

122. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
The history of North India is marked by the sequential rise of several major dynasties. The Mauryas were the first to create a large empire in the fourth century BCE. They were followed by the Sungas, who established their power in Magadha after the Mauryan collapse. Later, during the first century CE, the Kushanas rose to dominance in the north and northwest. Finally, the Gupta Empire emerged in the fourth century CE, ushering in what is often called the Golden Age of ancient India. This chronological order traces the political evolution of the subcontinent over several centuries.

123. (A) A non-denominational code of ethics and responsibility.
The nature of Asoka's Dhamma was essentially a non-denominational code of ethics designed to promote social responsibility and personal morality. It was not intended to be a new religious sect or a strict enforcement of Buddhist monastic rules. Instead, it emphasized universal values such as compassion, honesty, and respect for all living beings. By focusing on practical duties and ethical behavior, Asoka sought to unite his diverse subjects and provide a stable foundation for social harmony. This approach reflected his vision of a state guided by righteousness rather than force or sectarian dogma.

124. (A) The king's customary share of the agricultural produce.
In the revenue systems of the Mauryan and Gupta periods, the term 'Bhaga' referred to the king's customary share of the agricultural produce. It was the primary land tax collected from peasants, typically amounting to one-sixth of the total harvest. This revenue was essential for maintaining the state's administrative machinery, military forces, and public welfare projects. The collection of Bhaga demonstrated the state's direct economic relationship with the rural population and its reliance on agricultural surplus for political and financial stability over several centuries of ancient Indian history.

125. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Each major school of ancient Indian art is associated with specific materials and styles. The Gandhara school primarily used grey-blue schist stone, reflecting Hellenistic influences. The Mathura school utilized local red-spotted sandstone to create indigenous religious sculptures. The Amaravati school, located in the Andhra region, is famous for its dynamic narrative carvings on white marble. Finally, Mauryan pillars were made from polished Chunar sandstone, featuring a unique mirror-like finish. These materials highlight the regional diversity and technological developments that characterized the artistic landscape of the subcontinent during different historical eras.

126. (A) Menander
Menander the first, a prominent Indo-Greek king, is the subject of the famous Buddhist philosophical text known as the 'Milinda Panha' or the Questions of King Milinda. The text records a detailed dialogue between the king and the Buddhist monk Nagasena. Through their discussion, Menander is convinced of the truth of Buddhist teachings and eventually converts to the faith. This work is a significant historical and religious document that highlights the interaction between Greek intellectual traditions and Indian philosophy, showcasing the cultural synthesis that occurred in the northwestern subcontinent.

127. (A) Dominion over trade routes connecting north and south India.
The Satavahana rulers held the prestigious title of 'Lords of the Dakshinapatha', which signified their dominance over the major trade routes connecting North and South India. Their empire was strategically located in the Deccan, allowing them to control the movement of goods and travelers across the subcontinent. This position enabled them to facilitate a brisk exchange

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of cultural and economic traditions between different regions. The title reflects their role as a vital political and commercial bridge, ensuring the stability and prosperity of the trade networks that linked the Gangetic plains with the southern peninsular regions.

128. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
Sangam Age society and polity were organized around several key institutions. The 'Manram' served as a common village assembly for local issues, while the 'Avai' was the prestigious court of the monarch where policy was discussed. The term 'Yavana' was widely used to refer to Westerners, especially Greek and Roman traders who were active in the port cities. However, the Vellalas were a class of agricultural landowners, not priests. Furthermore, the 'Palai' represented arid regions, while fertile agricultural plains were referred to as 'Marutam'. These terms reflect the complex socio-economic structure of ancient Tamilakam.

129. (A) Spices, especially pepper
Spices, particularly black pepper, were the most significant commodities exported from India to the Roman world. Pepper was so highly valued in Rome that it was often referred to as 'black gold'. The massive demand for this and other luxury items like textiles and precious stones led to a substantial inflow of Roman gold into India. This commercial exchange created a favorable balance of trade for Indian merchants and contributed to the great wealth of coastal kingdoms. Roman historians famously lamented this drain of imperial wealth in exchange for Indian agricultural and craft products.

130. (A) Dynamic movement and narrative quality in sculptural panels.
The Amaravati school of art is uniquely distinguished from the Gandhara and Mathura schools by its extraordinary sense of dynamic movement and narrative quality. The sculptural panels from Amaravati often feature crowded, energetic scenes that depict various Jataka tales and events from the life of the Buddha with great fluid grace. Unlike the more isolated and static figures found in other schools, Amaravati art focuses on elaborate storytelling and the depiction of complex human emotions and interactions. This style, characterized by its use of white marble, represents a high point of artistic expression in South India.

131. (A) A land grant made to a temple or a deity
In the Gupta period, the term 'devadana' referred to a land grant made specifically for the maintenance of a temple or the worship of a deity. These grants were typically tax-free and intended to provide a permanent source of income for religious institutions. The practice of making devadana grants reflected the growing importance of temple-based Hinduism and the state's role in patronizing religious centers. These grants often included rights over the revenue and labor of the local population, contributing to the development of powerful religious institutions and the institutionalization of the Bhakti tradition.

132. (D) Yaska
The development of Sanskrit linguistics and grammar was a significant intellectual achievement in ancient India. While Panini is the most famous figure, credited with the foundational work Ashtadhyayi, other scholars like Yaska also made fundamental contributions. Yaska authored the Nirukta, which is an important text on etymology and the interpretation of Vedic words. These scholars established a rigorous framework for the language long before the Gupta age. Their work ensured the precision and stability of Sanskrit, which allowed it to become the preeminent language of religious, scientific, and literary discourse across the subcontinent for over a millennium.

133. (A) Aryabhata
Aryabhata was a pioneering mathematician and astronomer during the Gupta period who made extraordinary contributions to science. He accurately calculated the value of pi to four decimal places and determined the length of the solar year with remarkable precision. Aryabhata also proposed that the earth rotates on its axis and provided correct explanations for solar and lunar eclipses. His work, the Aryabhatiya, laid the foundation for future developments in Indian mathematics and astronomy. These scientific achievements represent the intellectual peak of the era and significantly influenced mathematical thought in the Arab world and Europe.

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as a divine figure. This deification, along with the worship of compassionate Bodhisattvas, created a religious environment that encouraged visual representation and devotion through icons. Unlike earlier traditions that represented the Buddha only through symbols, Mahayana allowed for the creation of human images of the Buddha. This shift facilitated the rise of the Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture, where artists used stone to express complex religious ideals and provide focal points for popular worship and spiritual connection.

184. (A) Stratification based on occupation and eco-zone (tinai) belonging.
Society in ancient South India, as described in Sangam literature, was characterized by a unique system of stratification based on ecological zones and traditional occupations. This 'tinai' system divided the land and its people into distinct categories, such as hill-dwellers, pastoralists, and coastal inhabitants. While social hierarchies existed, they did not exactly mirror the rigid four-fold varna system found in contemporary North India. Status was often determined by professional roles, kinship, and the nature of the landscape people inhabited. This structure reflects a deep integration of cultural identity and environmental surroundings, providing a vivid picture of early Tamil social organization.

185. (A) Tax paid in cash by producers of specific crops or commodities.
In the Gupta revenue system, the tax known as 'Hiranya' likely represented a payment made in cash, in contrast to 'Bhaga' which was paid in kind. This tax was often levied on producers of high-value commodities or commercial crops that were more easily traded for money. The existence of Hiranya indicates a significant degree of monetization in the Gupta economy, especially in urban and commercial centers. By collecting taxes in both cash and kind, the state could more effectively manage its financial resources and support various administrative, military, and religious expenditures across its vast and diverse territories.

186. (A) A towering shikhara
Early Gupta temples were characterized by their simple and modest designs, marking the first phase of structural temple architecture in India. Typical features included a flat roof, a square sanctum, or garbhagriha, and a pillared porch at the entrance. These structures lacked the towering shikharas, or curvilinear towers, that became a standard and grand feature of later medieval temple architecture. The early Gupta style represents an experimental period where architects were establishing the fundamental principles of building permanent stone homes for deities. These simple designs eventually evolved into the more complex and ornate temple styles of subsequent centuries.

187. (A) Shudraka
The Sanskrit play 'Mrichchhakatika', or The Little Clay Cart, is traditionally attributed to the playwright Shudraka. This work is celebrated for its realistic and vivid portrayal of urban society in ancient India, focusing on the lives of common people rather than royal figures. The story revolves around the romance between a noble but impoverished merchant, Charudatta, and a talented courtesan, Vasantasena. The play provides detailed insights into the legal system, social hierarchies, and daily life of the time. Its departure from conventional courtly themes makes it a unique and enduring masterpiece of classical Indian literature.

188. (A) General religious tolerance with the king patronizing multiple faiths.
The religious atmosphere during Harshavardhana's reign was characterized by broad tolerance and the active patronage of multiple faiths. While the king personally favored Mahayana Buddhism, he continued to show great respect for Brahmanical traditions and diverse religious sects. Harsha famously organized large assemblies at Kanauj and Prayaga where scholars from different backgrounds were invited to engage in spiritual discourse. During these events, he distributed wealth among Buddhists, Brahmanas, and Jain followers alike. This policy of pluralism ensured social harmony within his diverse empire and reflected the eclectic and inclusive nature of Indian religious culture during the seventh century.

189. (A) Visnukundins
The Undavalli caves, located near Vijayawada in modern-day Andhra Pradesh, are a significant architectural contribution of the Visnukundin

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140. (A) Rudradaman I
Rudradaman the first was a famous Saka ruler of Western India who is celebrated for his administrative and military achievements. He is particularly well-known for the extensive repair of the Sudarshana Lake, which had been originally constructed during the Mauryan period but was damaged by a storm. The Junagadh rock inscription, written in chaste Sanskrit, records this achievement and highlights his concern for the welfare of his subjects. Rudradaman was a patron of Sanskrit and his reign represents the zenith of Saka power in India, marked by significant cultural and political stability in the western regions.

141. (A) The Pandyas
The Sangam assembly, a legendary gathering of Tamil poets and scholars, was traditionally held under the patronage of the Pandya kings in Madurai. These assemblies, known as 'Sangams', were instrumental in the compilation and preservation of early Tamil literature. The Pandyas were renowned for their support of the arts and their role in fostering a vibrant literary culture in the deep south. Through their patronage, a vast body of secular and heroic poetry was created, providing invaluable insights into the society and history of ancient Tamilakam. This tradition established Madurai as a premier center of intellectual life.

142. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Magadha's rise to imperial status was driven by a combination of several critical factors. The region's strategic access to vast iron ore deposits allowed for the creation of advanced tools and weaponry. Control over the fertile Gangetic plains provided a reliable agricultural surplus to sustain a large population and military. The innovative use of elephants in warfare gave Magadhan armies a significant tactical advantage. Furthermore, a succession of ambitious and determined rulers, such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru, followed aggressive policies of expansion. These elements together transformed Magadha into the most powerful state in ancient India.

143. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Kushana rulers adopted grand and evocative titles to bolster their royal authority and elevate their status above local chieftains. Titles like 'Maharajadhiraja' and 'Devaputra', which means 'Son of God', were used to suggest a divine connection to their rule. These practices were likely influenced by the imperial traditions of neighboring civilizations, particularly the Chinese and Roman empires. By using such imposing titles, the Kushanas sought to legitimize their power over a vast and diverse empire and project an image of supreme, divinely sanctioned sovereignty. This strategy was a key element of their political ideology and imperial presentation.

144. (A) The Kushanas
The practice of issuing high-quality gold coinage during the Gupta period was significantly influenced by the earlier numismatic traditions of the Kushana dynasty. The Kushanas were the first to issue gold coins, known as dinaras, on a wide scale in India, modeling them after Roman currency. The Guptas adopted this practice and reached new heights of artistic excellence, producing gold coins with intricate designs and Sanskrit legends. This continuity in coinage highlights the economic links and cultural transmissions between the two major empires. The abundance of gold currency in both periods reflects the thriving trade and prosperity of ancient India.

145. (A) Gupta-Vakataka Age
The rise of Puranic Hinduism is a hallmark of the Gupta-Vakataka age, representing a major shift in Indian religious life. This period saw the crystallization of the Bhakti movement, which focused on personal devotion to specific deities rather than complex Vedic rituals. Central to this development was the worship of the holy trinity—Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva—and the popularization of religious stories through the compilation of the Puranas. The period also witnessed the growth of temple-based worship and the introduction of idol worship, making Hinduism more accessible and deeply integrated into the social and cultural fabric of the subcontinent.

146. (A) Sushruta Samhita
A physician in the Gupta era seeking advanced surgical knowledge would consult the Sushruta Samhita. This foundational text provides detailed information on hundreds of surgical instruments and complex procedures, including plastic surgery

and cataract operations. Sushruta is often hailed as the father of surgery due to his pioneering contributions to the field. His work reflects the high level of medical and technological expertise attained in ancient India. The text was widely respected and served as a crucial reference for practitioners for centuries, showcasing the scientific advancement and empirical approach to medicine that characterized the Gupta age and beyond.

147. (A) Mahayana Buddhism
Harshavardhana's religious journey underwent a significant evolution, culminating in his deep patronage of Mahayana Buddhism. While he initially followed Shaivism, his interaction with the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang and other scholars led him to embrace Buddhist teachings. He became a major supporter of the Nalanda University and convened grand assemblies to honor Buddhist philosophy. Harsha's later reign is marked by his efforts to propagate Buddhism through charity and religious discourses, though he maintained a policy of tolerance toward other faiths. His devotion to the Mahayana tradition is a key feature of the cultural and religious landscape of seventh-century North India.

148. (A) The Sun God, Chitraratha Svami
The Salankayanas, who ruled the coastal Andhra region from their capital at Vengi, were noted for their specific religious devotion. They were staunch worshippers of the Sun God, whom they revered under the name Chitraratha Svami. Their inscriptions often begin with an invocation to this deity, highlighting the importance of solar worship in their royal ideology. The Salankayanas also patronized other Brahmanical traditions and contributed to the religious and political stabilization of the region after the decline of the Ikshvakus. Their devotion to the Sun God represents a unique aspect of the religious diversity in ancient Andhradesa.

149. (A) Chandragupta II
The famous iron pillar at Mehrauli, Delhi, is a remarkable example of ancient Indian metallurgy, known for its rust-resistant properties. It is generally attributed to the reign of the Gupta king Chandragupta the second, based on an inscription that mentions a powerful ruler named 'Chandra'. The pillar stands as a testament to the advanced scientific knowledge and technological skills achieved during the Gupta period. Its endurance over sixteen centuries without significant corrosion continues to intrigue scientists. The pillar symbolizes the strength and sophistication of the Gupta Empire, reflecting the period's brilliance in both science and imperial presentation.

150. (A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
Each of these post-Mauryan dynasties was established by a notable founder who changed the political landscape of ancient India. Pushyamitra Sunga founded the Sunga dynasty after the fall of the Mauryas. Vasudeva was the first ruler of the Kanva dynasty in Magadha. Simuka established the Satavahana power in the Deccan, which became a dominant regional force. Kujula Kadphises was the founder of the Kushana dynasty's Indian branch, leading to the creation of a vast empire. Understanding these founders is essential for tracing the political transitions and the rise of new powers in the centuries following the Mauryan period.

151. (A) Major Rock Edict XIII
Major Rock Edict thirteen is one of the most significant historical records of Asoka's reign. It provides a detailed account of his conquest of Kalinga and the immense suffering it caused. The edict records Asoka's profound remorse for the violence and his subsequent conversion to the policy of 'Dhamma-vijaya' or conquest through righteousness. He replaced military expansion with moral influence and dedicated himself to the welfare of his subjects. This inscription serves as a primary source for understanding Asoka's spiritual transformation and the shift in Mauryan state policy toward pacifism and ethical governance after the war.

152. (A) The head of the village.
In the Mauryan administrative structure, the 'Gramika' was the official responsible for the governance of a village. The village was the smallest and most fundamental unit of administration in the empire. The Gramika managed local affairs, collected revenue, and resolved minor disputes among the residents. While the position was often hereditary or selected from among the village elders, the Gramika worked in coordination with higher state officials. This decentralized aspect

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of Mauryan governance ensured that the central authority maintained a connection with the rural population and could efficiently manage resources at the grassroots level.

153. (A) Emergence of numerous indigenous and foreign kingdoms.
The decline of the Mauryan Empire in the second century BCE led to significant political fragmentation across the Indian subcontinent. In the absence of a strong central authority, several indigenous powers like the Sungas and Satavahanas rose to prominence in different regions. Simultaneously, northwestern India witnessed a series of foreign invasions by groups such as the Indo-Greeks, Sakas, and Kushanas. This period of transition was characterized by the emergence of numerous kingdoms and a shift toward regional political identities. Despite the fragmentation, it was an era of brisk trade, cultural synthesis, and remarkable artistic and religious developments.

154. (A) Synthesis of Indian themes with Greco-Roman stylistic elements.
The Gandhara school of sculpture is most distinguished by its unique synthesis of Indian Buddhist themes and Greco-Roman artistic styles. Flourishing in the northwestern regions of the subcontinent, it featured representations of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas with Hellenistic physical traits, such as wavy hair, muscular frames, and flowing, realistic drapery. The artists predominantly used local grey-blue schist stone to create these images. This school represents a fascinating cultural crossroads where Western aesthetic traditions were adapted to express Eastern philosophical and religious ideals, marking a significant and influential phase in the history of world art.

155. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
The Gupta Age was a period of extraordinary advancements in science and technology. Aryabhata made revolutionary proposals about the earth's rotation and correctly explained eclipses. The concept of zero and the decimal system were established, fundamentally changing mathematics. The Sushruta Samhita documented advanced surgical procedures, reflecting deep medical knowledge. Metallurgy also reached new heights, as evidenced by the rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi. Unlike being kept secret, this knowledge was systematically recorded in various scientific and mathematical treatises. These achievements demonstrate the empirical and innovative intellectual spirit that flourished under the patronage of the Gupta emperors.

156. (A) Harshavardhana
The 'Nagananda' is a celebrated Sanskrit play attributed to Emperor Harshavardhana. It tells the moving story of Jimutavahana, a Bodhisattva prince who sacrifices his own life to save a Naga from being devoured by Garuda. The play reflects Harsha's personal devotion to Buddhist ideals and his literary talents. It is one of the three famous plays written by the emperor, the others being Ratnavali and Priyadarsika. The Nagananda is unique for its synthesis of Buddhist compassion and classical dramatic structure, making it a significant work in the history of Sanskrit literature and royal authorship.

157. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Visnukundins of Andhradesa were powerful monarchs who performed ancient Vedic sacrifices, such as horse sacrifices, to legitimize and celebrate their royal authority. They were significant patrons of Brahmanical culture and left a lasting architectural legacy. Their most famous contribution is the rock-cut cave complex at Undavalli, near Vijayawada. This multi-storied structure features a monumental and serene reclining image of Lord Vishnu, showcasing the high level of artistic skill and religious devotion of the era. These caves remain a testament to the Visnukundins' role in the cultural and architectural development of the coastal Andhra region.

158. (A) A stupa
The 'pradakshina patha' is an essential architectural feature found in Buddhist stupas. It refers to the circular circumambulation path that surrounds the central hemispherical mound of the stupa. Devotees walk along this path in a clockwise direction as a mark of respect and meditation. At major stupas like Sanchi, the path is often enclosed by an ornate stone railing or vedika. This feature reflects the importance of ritual movements in Buddhist worship. The pradakshina patha became a standard element

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171. (A) Administering a district, surveying land, and dispensing justice.
In the Mauryan administrative hierarchy, the 'Rajjuka' was a crucial district-level official who performed both executive and judicial functions. Their primary responsibilities included the measurement and survey of land for revenue assessment and the maintenance of local order. Asoka's edicts specifically mention that Rajjukas were granted independent authority to dispense justice, ensuring that legal processes were efficient and accessible. This dual role made them central figures in the regional administration, directly connecting the imperial authority with the rural population and ensuring that land management and the rule of law were effectively integrated at the district level.

172. (A) Brahmana
The Sunga dynasty, which rose to power after the decline of the Mauryas, was of Brahmana origin. The dynasty was founded by Pushyamitra Sunga, who was the commander-in-chief of the last Mauryan king. His accession represented a significant shift in Magadha's political and religious orientation, moving toward a resurgence of Brahmanical traditions. The Sungas are historically noted for reviving ancient Vedic rituals, such as the Ashvamedha sacrifice, and patronizing Brahmanical culture. Despite their origins, they also presided over an era of continued artistic activity in Buddhist centers, suggesting a complex religious environment in post-Mauryan North India.

173. (A) Chandragupta II
The 'Navaratnas', or nine gems, were a legendary group of exceptionally talented scholars and artists said to have adorned the court of the Gupta king Chandragupta the second. This illustrious circle included literary giants like Kalidasa, the astronomer Varahamihira, and the lexicographer Amarasimha. Their presence highlights the emperor's role as a magnificent patron of culture and the intellectual brilliance of the Gupta age. These individuals made foundational contributions to various fields such as poetry, science, and grammar, collectively representing the pinnacle of classical Indian achievement and confirming the era's reputation as a Golden Age of learning.

174. (A) Kanauj
Harshavardhana shifted his capital from Thanesar to the strategic city of Kanauj, which subsequently became the preeminent political and cultural center of North India for several centuries. This move allowed Harsha to better manage his expanding territories and established Kanauj as a symbol of imperial authority. The city's location in the heart of the fertile Gangetic plains provided a strong economic base. Under Harsha's patronage, Kanauj flourished as a hub of learning and religious discourse, hosting grand assemblies and attracting scholars from across the subcontinent and beyond, marking a new chapter in regional history.

175. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Gupta administration was organized into several hierarchical units to manage its vast territories effectively. The 'Bhukti' was the largest division, serving as a province, which was governed by an official known as an 'Uparika'. Each Bhukti was further subdivided into districts called 'Vishayas', managed by a district officer. The primary source of state revenue was 'Bhaga', the king's customary share of the agricultural produce. This structured approach to regional governance and fiscal management allowed the central authority to maintain stability and efficiently collect resources through a network of specialized provincial and local officials.

176. (A) The Kalinga War.
Asoka adopted the policy of 'Dhamma-vijaya', or conquest through righteousness, following the traumatic events of the Kalinga War. The immense suffering and loss of life during this campaign profoundly affected the emperor, leading him to renounce military expansion in favor of ethical and cultural influence. He dedicated himself to the promotion of moral conduct and the welfare of all living beings, both within his empire and in neighboring regions. This transition marked a revolutionary shift in Mauryan statecraft, placing moral responsibility and social harmony at the center of imperial ideology, and replacing force with the power of persuasion.

177. (A) Amaravati
The Amaravati school of art flourished in the Andhra region under the patronage of the Satavahana dynasty and their successors. This

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and reflects the vibrancy of Buddhist artistic expression.

165. (A) General peace, prosperity, and religious conditions of the empire.
The travelogue of the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien provides a valuable eyewitness account of India during the reign of Chandragupta the second. Fa-Hien's writings describe a period of general peace and economic prosperity, where people lived without fear of harsh punishments. He observed the flourishing of Buddhism alongside Brahmanical traditions and noted the efficiency of Gupta administration. His accounts offer insights into the social customs, religious practices, and the general welfare of the population. While he focused primarily on Buddhist sites, his observations provide a broad perspective on the stability and cultural vitality of the Gupta Empire at its peak.

166. (A) Arikamedu
Arikamedu, located near modern-day Puducherry on the east coast of India, was a major port and archaeological site that played a vital role in trade with the Roman world. Excavations at the site have revealed Roman pottery, amphorae, and beads, providing clear evidence of maritime commerce between the first century BCE and the second century CE. Arikamedu served as an important entrepôt where Indian goods like textiles and gemstones were exchanged for Roman products. This vibrant coastal center highlights the extent of India's international trade connections and the integration of South Indian ports into the global commercial network.

167. (A) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Gupta period is widely recognized for the remarkable development and flourishing of classical Sanskrit literature. It was during this era that great poets like Kalidasa and scholars like Harisena produced their masterpieces, and major texts like the Puranas and Epics were refined. In contrast to the earlier emphasis on Prakrit, the Gupta emperors adopted Sanskrit as the official language of their court and administration. Their patronage helped establish Sanskrit as the primary language of elite discourse, science, and religion across the subcontinent, marking a significant linguistic and cultural shift from the post-Mauryan and Buddhist-influenced periods.

168. (A) 1, 3 and 4 only
Harsha's administration was characterized by several prominent features that reflect the political landscape of the seventh century. He maintained a large standing army to secure his territories and personally inspected the administration through frequent imperial tours. The primary source of state revenue was a tax on agricultural produce, typically fixed at one-sixth of the harvest. Contrary to using light punishments, the legal system was known for its severity. Additionally, while some officials were paid in cash, there was an increasing tendency to provide land grants as remuneration for high-ranking service, demonstrating a move toward decentralized, feudal practices.

169. (A) Buddhist doctrine exposition through Manimekalai's adventures.
'Manimekalai', a celebrated Tamil epic and sequel to 'Silappadikaram', focuses on the life and spiritual journey of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. The narrative follows Manimekalai's adventures as she renounces worldly life to become a Buddhist nun. The work serves as a platform for the exposition of Buddhist philosophical doctrines and ethical teachings. Composed by Sattanar, the epic provides deep insights into the religious diversity of the Sangam age and the influence of Buddhism in South India. It is a unique combination of heroic narrative and philosophical discourse, representing a significant achievement in Tamil literary history.

170. (A) Rise of landed intermediaries and beginnings of feudalism.
The widespread practice of land grants during the Gupta period led to fundamental changes in the social and political structure of India. By granting land with fiscal and administrative rights to Brahmanas and officials, the state created a new class of landed intermediaries. These individuals exercised authority over the peasantry and collected revenue directly, reducing the central state's direct control. This process is often identified by historians as the beginning of a feudal system. These grants also encouraged agricultural expansion into peripheral areas but simultaneously increased social stratification and the local power of religious and secular elites in the countryside.

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in Indian religious architecture, eventually being adopted into the design of structural Hindu and Jain temples.

159. (A) It is the first long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman the first is unique and historically significant as the first major epigraphic record written in chaste, classical Sanskrit. While earlier inscriptions were mostly in Prakrit, this Saka ruler's decision to use Sanskrit highlights the language's growing importance as a medium for official and scholarly communication. The inscription provides a detailed account of Rudradaman's military conquests and his administrative work, particularly the repair of the Sudarshana Lake. It serves as a vital primary source for the history of the Western Ksatrapas and demonstrates the sophisticated cultural and linguistic environment of second-century Western India.

160. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Sangam literature is an invaluable source for understanding the socio-economic life of ancient Tamilakam. This body of work consists of a vast collection of secular poems that focus on themes of love, known as 'agam', and war, known as 'puram'. These poems were composed by various poets and scholars who received patronage from the powerful Chera, Chola, and Pandya kings. The literature provides detailed descriptions of ecological zones, trade activities, and social structures. Because it captures the lived experiences and heroic traditions of the time, it serves as a primary historical record for early South India.

161. (A) Samantas
In the Gupta polity, the relationship between the emperor and subordinate rulers was managed through the 'Samanta' system. Samantas were feudatory chiefs or conquered kings who were allowed to retain their local authority in exchange for paying tribute and providing military support to the Gupta emperor. This decentralized structure was a key feature of the imperial administration, allowing the central state to govern a vast territory through a network of loyal local leaders. The power and influence of these Samantas increased over time, eventually contributing to the rise of a more complex feudal hierarchy in medieval India.

162. (A) Land belonging to the royal demesne or crown land.
According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, 'Sita' land refers to the agricultural land that belonged directly to the state or the royal demesne. These crown lands were managed by a specialized official known as the Sitadhyaksha. They were cultivated either by state-employed laborers, prisoners, or through sharecropping arrangements. The revenue generated from Sita lands was a major source of income for the imperial treasury. This system highlights the Mauryan state's direct involvement in agricultural production and its efforts to maximize revenue through the efficient management of its own land resources, supporting a vast administrative structure.

163. (A) Menander I
Menander the first was the most celebrated Indo-Greek king, renowned for his vast empire and his patronage of Buddhism. His reign during the second century BCE saw the expansion of Indo-Greek power into the Punjab. He is famously known from the Buddhist text 'Milinda Panha', which records his philosophical dialogues with the monk Nagasena. These discussions led to his conversion to Buddhism, a significant event in the cultural history of the northwestern subcontinent. Menander's rule and his religious devotion exemplify the synthesis of Hellenistic and Indian traditions that characterized the Indo-Greek kingdoms in India.

164. (A) To be carved with Jataka tales and scenes from Buddha's life.
The 'Toranas', or magnificent gateways, constructed at major stupa sites like Sanchi were intended to serve as narrative panels for religious and moral education. These gateways are intricately carved with numerous scenes depicting Jataka tales—stories of the Buddha's previous births—and key events from his final life. They also feature various motifs of animals, plants, and celestial beings. The Toranas allowed pilgrims to visually engage with Buddhist teachings and legends as they entered the sacred precinct. This elaborate narrative art represents a high point of early Indian stone carving

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school is uniquely characterized by its use of local white marble and a dynamic, narrative style of sculpture. The artists at Amaravati focused on creating elaborate panels that depicted various Buddhist stories with a sense of fluid movement and complex human interaction. This artistic tradition represents the pinnacle of ancient South Indian creative expression, showcasing the region's cultural sophistication and its deep religious devotion. Its influence extended significantly across the subcontinent and into Southeast Asia.

178. (A) Square sanctums (garbhagriha) with flat roofs and porticos.
The beginning of temple architecture during the Gupta period is characterized by simple yet significant structural forms. These early temples featured a small, square sanctum known as the garbhagriha, which housed the deity's image. These structures were typically covered with flat roofs and preceded by a pillared porch or portico. This modest design represents the first transition from rock-cut shrines to free-standing stone buildings. These early structural temples provided the essential prototype for the more elaborate and towering architectural styles that eventually developed into the distinct Nagara and Dravida traditions of medieval Indian temple art.

179. (A) Harshavardhana
The 'Si-Yu-Ki', the detailed travelogue written by the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang, is an indispensable primary source for the reign of Harshavardhana. Xuanzang spent several years in India during the seventh century CE, visiting Harsha's court and attending grand religious assemblies at Kanauj and Prayaga. His writings provide a vivid and extensive account of the political, social, and religious conditions of the time. He praised Harsha's justice, administrative efficiency, and his dedicated patronage of Buddhism and learning. Xuanzang's eyewitness perspective offers deep insights into the cultural vibrancy and the complex political landscape of Harsha's North Indian empire.

180. (A) 1, 2 and 5 only
The Mauryan Empire was the first major imperial power in ancient India, reaching an unprecedented geographical extent. Its administrative structure is extensively detailed in the Arthashastra, which provides a blueprint for centralized governance and economic control. However, the dynasty was founded by Chandragupta Maurya, not Asoka, and its capital was Pataliputra, while Taxila served as an important provincial center. Following Asoka's death, the empire rapidly disintegrated due to a combination of weak successors, internal rebellions, and economic pressures. These factors collectively led to the collapse of the first great pan-Indian empire in the second century BCE.

181. (A) Chanakya (Kautilya)
The expansion of the Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta was significantly aided by his brilliant advisor, Chanakya, also known as Kautilya. He is traditionally credited with the authorship of the Arthashastra, a comprehensive treatise on statecraft, economics, and military strategy. Chanakya's strategic vision and political acumen were crucial in defeating the Nanda dynasty and consolidating Mauryan power. His teachings emphasized a pragmatic and highly organized approach to governance, which became the administrative foundation of the empire. The relationship between Chandragupta and Chanakya remains one of the most celebrated partnerships in the history of Indian political thought.

182. (A) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Kushanas issued a vast number of copper coins alongside their famous gold dinaras, reflecting the diverse economic activities of their empire. While gold coins were used for large-scale imperial transactions, international trade, and prestigious donations, copper coins were intended for local and everyday exchange. The abundance of copper currency suggests a highly monetized economy where even small, daily transactions were carried out using state-issued money. This dual currency system allowed the Kushanas to manage both their international commercial interests and the domestic needs of their subjects, highlighting the sophistication and reach of their economic administration.

183. (A) Deification of Buddha and Bodhisattvas allowed for visual art.
The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism played a crucial role in the development of Buddhist art by introducing the concept of the Buddha

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134. (A) Decentralized with a significant role for feudatories.
The administration under Harshavardhana was characterized by its decentralized nature and the crucial role played by a network of feudatories. Unlike the earlier Mauryan model of direct central rule, Harsha governed through numerous subordinate kings and local chieftains who paid tribute and provided military assistance. These feudatories were often granted significant autonomy within their own regions. The central authority was maintained through personal loyalty and the king's constant supervision during his frequent travels. This structure reflected the transition toward a more feudal political system where power was distributed across various levels of the imperial hierarchy.

135. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The post-Mauryan period was marked by a significant expansion in craft production and commercial activities. This economic growth was driven by the rise of several regional centers of power, each patronizing local merchant and artisan guilds, or shrenis. These guilds provided stability and standardization in production. Simultaneously, the immense demand for Indian luxury goods from the Roman Empire boosted maritime and overland trade. The resulting inflow of wealth and the proliferation of coinage reflect a vibrant and prosperous economy, despite the political fragmentation that characterized the subcontinent between the second century BCE and third century CE.

136. (A) Patronage of Brahmanism and Undavalli rock-cut caves.
The Visnukundins were an important regional dynasty in Andhradesa who maintained a strong cultural connection with the Vakatakas. They were dedicated patrons of Brahmanical traditions, which they supported through various religious endowments and the performance of Vedic sacrifices. Their most notable architectural legacy is the rock-cut cave complex at Undavalli, featuring a large and impressive reclining image of Vishnu. These multi-storied caves showcase their artistic innovation and religious devotion. The Visnukundins played a vital role in preserving and expanding the cultural heritage of the Andhra region during the transition toward the early medieval period.

137. (A) Trade and commerce were completely non-existent.
The Mauryan economy was highly organized and dynamic, contradicting any claim that trade and commerce were non-existent. In fact, agriculture was the mainstay, and the state played a direct role by operating its own farms, mines, and weaving workshops to maximize revenue. The Mauryas also established a standardized system of punch-marked coins to facilitate commercial transactions across the empire. Internal and external trade flourished, supported by a vast network of roads and the state's regulation of weights and measures. This comprehensive economic involvement allowed the Mauryan state to maintain its massive administrative and military requirements.

138. (A) Greek and Aramaic
The Kandahar Bilingual Rock Inscription is a unique historical record that highlights the diverse and cosmopolitan nature of the Mauryan Empire's frontier. It is written in two scripts: Greek and Aramaic. The use of Greek reflects the presence of local Hellenistic communities following Alexander's invasion, while Aramaic was a widely used administrative language across Western Asia. This bilingual edict demonstrates Asoka's commitment to communicating his message of Dhamma to all his subjects in languages they understood. It also provides clear evidence of the extensive reach of Mauryan authority into modern-day Afghanistan and its complex cultural landscape.

139. (A) Pushyamitra
Pushyamitra Sunga was the founder of the Sunga dynasty, which rose to power in Magadha following the collapse of the Mauryan Empire. He was the commander-in-chief of the last Mauryan king, Brihadratha, whom he assassinated during a military parade in 185 BCE. Pushyamitra's reign is significant for the revival of Brahmanical traditions and the performance of ancient Vedic sacrifices like the Ashvamedha. He successfully defended the kingdom against foreign invasions and maintained authority over a significant part of North India, ushering in a new political and religious era after the Mauryan period.

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dynasty. This multi-storied rock-cut complex is one of the most impressive examples of early Indian cave architecture. Its most famous feature is a monumental and serene reclining image of Lord Vishnu, carved from a single block of sandstone. These caves demonstrate the Visnukundins' dedication to Brahmanical traditions and their innovative approach to rock-cut design. The site remains a vital testament to the artistic and religious heritage of Andhradesa during the transition to the early medieval period in South India.

190. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
The historical timeline of ancient India features the rise of several major imperial powers in a specific sequence. The Mauryan Empire, led by rulers like Asoka, dominated the subcontinent in the third century BCE. Following the Mauryan decline, the Kushana Empire, reaching its peak under Kanishka, established dominance in the first and second centuries CE. Later, the Gupta Empire, including powerful monarchs like Samudragupta, rose to prominence in the fourth century CE. Finally, Harshavardhana established his North Indian empire in the early seventh century CE. This chronological order traces the major political transitions over several significant centuries.

191. (A) Brahmi
Brahmi was the primary script used for writing Prakrit in the majority of Asoka's edicts across the heartland of the Mauryan Empire. This script is of great historical significance as it is the ancestor of most modern Indian scripts. By using Brahmi to record his administrative and moral messages on pillars and rocks, Asoka ensured that his edicts were accessible to a wide audience. While other scripts like Kharoshthi and Greek were used in the frontier regions, the extensive use of Brahmi reflects its status as the preeminent script for public and official communication during the Mauryan period.

192. (A) The composition of the Allahabad Prashasti.
Kanishka was a legendary Kushana ruler associated with many major events, including the start of the Saka era in 78 CE and the patronage of the Gandhara school of art. He also famously convened the Fourth Buddhist Council to resolve doctrinal issues. However, he was not involved in the composition of the Allahabad Prashasti. This celebrated inscription was actually composed by Harisena to honor the Gupta emperor Samudragupta, several centuries after Kanishka's reign. The Prashasti is a primary source for the Gupta period, while Kanishka's legacy is rooted in the peak of Kushana power and the expansion of Mahayana Buddhism.

193. (A) Role as intermediary in trade between Rome and India.
The economic prosperity of the Satavahana kingdom was largely derived from its strategic location in the Deccan, which allowed it to serve as a vital intermediary in trade between the Roman world and internal parts of India. They controlled key ports on both the western and eastern coasts, facilitating the exchange of luxury goods like spices and textiles for Roman gold. This role in international maritime commerce brought immense wealth and stability to the dynasty. The Satavahanas utilized this economic strength to support a vibrant culture, issue a variety of coins, and patronize significant religious and architectural projects across their territories.

194. (A) Puranic Hinduism
The concept of the 'Trimurti', or the holy trinity comprising Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer, became central to the development of Puranic Hinduism. This theological framework emerged as a significant religious shift during the Gupta period, moving focus toward these major deities. The Puranas provided detailed mythologies and worship protocols for the trinity, encouraging a more personal and devotional form of faith known as Bhakti. This development helped unify various local and regional cults under a broader Hindu framework, significantly influencing the religious and cultural life of the Indian subcontinent for many centuries.

195. (A) Chandragupta II
Prabhavatigupta was a powerful Vakataka queen who ruled as a regent following the death of her husband, Rudrasena the second. She was the daughter of the prominent Gupta emperor Chandragupta the second, also known as Vikramaditya. Her marriage was a strategic matrimonial alliance that strengthened the political ties between the Gupta and Vakataka

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of the imperial administration during the seventh century CE.

232. (A) Megasthenes
Pataliputra, the grand capital of the Mauryan Empire, was described in extensive detail by the Greek ambassador Megasthenes in his famous work, 'Indica'. He visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya and observed the city's massive wooden fortifications, numerous towers, and elaborate administrative systems. Megasthenes provided accounts of the royal palace, the city's municipal committees, and the overall prosperity of the population. Although much of his original work is lost, the surviving fragments in the writings of later historians provide an invaluable eyewitness perspective on the sophisticated urban planning and political organization of the Mauryan state at its primary center.

233. (A) Sarnath
During the post-Mauryan period, several distinct and influential schools of art flourished across the subcontinent, including Gandhara, Mathura, and Amaravati. Each developed unique styles and used different materials to create religious sculptures. In contrast, the Sarnath school reached its pinnacle later, during the Gupta period. While Sarnath was a major Buddhist center from Mauryan times, its specific and famous artistic style, characterized by serene expressions and delicate drapery, is a hallmark of Gupta-era art. Therefore, Sarnath is generally not categorized as a major school of post-Mauryan art in the same way that the Gandhara and Mathura traditions are recognized for that specific transition period.

234. (A) Lead, potin, copper, and bronze
The Satavahana dynasty issued a variety of coins made from different materials, including lead, potin, copper, and bronze. Notably, they were one of the few ancient Indian powers to extensively use lead for their currency. Potin, an alloy of copper and other metals, was also common. These coins often featured symbols like elephants, bulls, and ships, reflecting the economic and cultural life of the Deccan and the importance of maritime trade. The Satavahanas rarely issued gold coins, focusing instead on these other metals to facilitate local and regional commercial transactions. Their numismatic tradition provides vital clues about their economic reach and regional influence.

235. (A) Tamil Sangam literature
The literary works 'Tolkappiyam', 'Ettutogai', and 'Pattuppattu' are foundational texts of the ancient Tamil Sangam literary tradition. Tolkappiyam is the earliest work on Tamil grammar and poetics, while the other two are vast anthologies of secular and heroic poetry. These works were composed by numerous poets under the patronage of South Indian kings during the early centuries of the Common Era. They provide an extraordinarily detailed and vivid picture of the social life, economy, and political structures of ancient Tamilakam. This body of literature remains the primary source for the history and culture of the deep south during its early historical period.

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236. (A) Guptas
The Vakataka dynasty was a major political power in the Deccan region, ruling as contemporaries and close allies of the Gupta Empire in the north. Their power flourished between the third and sixth centuries CE. The relationship between the two dynasties was cemented through strategic matrimonial alliances, such as the marriage of the Gupta princess Prabhavatigupta to the Vakataka king Rudrasena the second. Together, the Guptas and Vakatakas maintained a degree of political stability across a large part of the subcontinent. The Vakatakas were also significant patrons of art, particularly responsible for the second phase of excavations at the world-famous Ajanta Caves.

237. (A) Hunas
The 'Bhitari pillar inscription' is a crucial historical source for the later Gupta period, particularly for the reign of Skandagupta. The inscription records his military successes against various enemies, most notably his decisive victory over the invading Hunas. This Central Asian group posed a severe threat to the stability of North India during the fifth century CE. Skandagupta's ability to repel the Huna invasion temporarily saved the empire from collapse, although the repeated conflicts eventually drained the imperial treasury. The inscription serves as a testament to the military valor of the last major Gupta emperor and the external challenges that eventually weakened the dynasty.

his empire. In the south, he followed a policy of defeating kings and then restoring them as feudatories. These military achievements earned him the title of 'Napoleon of India' among some historians. The inscription serves as a primary source for understanding the aggressive expansionist policy and the imperial ideology that established the Gupta dynasty as the paramount power in the fourth century CE.

202. (A) Kushanas
The prosperity of the Kushana Empire was heavily dependent on its control over major segments of the Silk Road and its brisk trade with the Roman Empire. When Roman commerce began to decline from the third century CE onwards, it significantly weakened the economic foundations of the Kushanas. The reduced inflow of wealth and the disruption of international trade routes impacted their political authority and their ability to maintain a vast administrative and military structure. This economic shift was a major factor contributing to the eventual fragmentation and decline of Kushana power, allowing other regional dynasties to rise to prominence.

203. (A) A tax-free village grant to a Brahmana or group of Brahmanas.
In the Gupta period, an 'Agrahara grant' signified the gift of a tax-free village or plot of land to a Brahmana or a collective of Brahmanas. These grants were typically perpetual and hereditary, intended to support religious activities and learning. The state surrendered its right to revenue and administrative control over these areas. The widespread practice of Agrahara grants encouraged the settlement of Brahmanas in peripheral regions and the integration of local communities into the Brahmanical framework. Over time, these grants contributed to the growth of landed religious intermediaries and the development of a decentralized, feudal social structure.

204. (A) The Visnukundins
The Salankayanas, who ruled the coastal Andhra region from Vengi, were eventually supplanted by the Visnukundins during the late fifth century CE. The Visnukundins expanded their influence across larger parts of Andhradesa and became a dominant regional power. They continued the tradition of patronizing Brahmanical culture and rock-cut architecture, notably at Undavalli. This transition marked a significant phase in the political history of the Andhra region, leading to a more consolidated regional state before the rise of the Eastern Chalukyas. The Visnukundins played a vital role in the cultural and political stabilization of South India during this period.

205. (A) A Buddhist story of self-sacrifice
The 'Nagananda' is a famous Sanskrit play authored by Emperor Harshavardhana that tells a poignant Buddhist story of self-sacrifice. The plot centers on Jimutavahana, a compassionate Bodhisattva prince who offers his own life to save a Naga from being eaten by the celestial bird Garuda. The play beautifully synthesizes Buddhist ideals of non-violence and compassion with classical dramatic themes. Harsha's personal devotion to Buddhism is clearly reflected in this work. It remains a significant piece of Sanskrit literature, showcasing the emperor's creative talent and his commitment to using art to promote spiritual and ethical values within his society.

206. (A) Assessor and Collector-general of revenue.
In the Mauryan administration, the 'Samaharta' held the vital position of Assessor and Collector-general of revenue. This official was responsible for managing the state's financial resources, overseeing the collection of taxes from various sectors like agriculture, trade, and mining. The Samaharta also maintained detailed accounts and was tasked with identifying new sources of income for the imperial treasury. This role was central to the highly organized and centralized nature of the Mauryan state, ensuring that the government possessed the financial stability needed to support its extensive administrative machinery and military forces across a vast empire.

207. (A) Use of local red-spotted sandstone and indigenous traditions.
A key feature of the Mathura school of art is its use of locally available red-spotted sandstone and its deep roots in indigenous Indian artistic traditions. Flourishing during the Kushana period, this school focused on creating powerful images of Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist deities. Unlike the Gandhara school, which was

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might otherwise have been lost. It also reflects the advanced level of scientific inquiry and the intellectual sophistication that characterized the Gupta era's contributions to global science.

220. (A) Post-Gupta period (including Harsha's time)
The post-Gupta period, including the reign of Harshavardhana, witnessed a noticeable decline in maritime trade with the Western world and a significant decrease in the circulation of gold coins. These economic shifts were influenced by the decline of the Roman Empire and changing international trade routes. Consequently, there was a greater emphasis on localized agrarian economies and the increasing use of land grants as a primary means of remuneration for officials and religious institutions. This era represented a transition toward a more decentralized, feudal system in India, where the vibrant commercial urbanism of the earlier periods began to give way to more ruralized social structures.

221. (A) Buddha's first sermon
The magnificent Lion capital at Sarnath was originally part of a pillar erected by the Mauryan emperor Asoka to commemorate the Buddha's first sermon. Known as the 'Dharmachakra Pravartana' or the turning of the wheel of law, this event took place at Sarnath following the Buddha's enlightenment. The capital features four lions sitting back-to-back, which symbolize the spread of Buddhist teachings in all four directions. Because of its historical importance and extraordinary artistic merit, the lion capital was chosen as the National Emblem of India, serving as a powerful link between the nation's ancient spiritual heritage and its modern identity.

222. (A) A province
In the Gupta administrative hierarchy, the term 'Bhukti' referred to a major administrative division, essentially equivalent to a province. These Bhuktis were the largest units under the direct supervision of the central government and were typically governed by high-ranking officials known as 'Uparikas'. Each Bhukti was further subdivided into districts, or 'Vishayas', to ensure efficient regional governance. This structured approach allowed the Gupta emperors to maintain order and effectively manage resources and revenue collection across their vast empire. The village remained the basic unit of administration at the lowest level, completing the comprehensive and hierarchical imperial system.

223. (A) The concept of zero and the decimal system.
The most significant and revolutionary contribution of the Gupta period to the world of mathematics was the formalization of the concept of zero and the place-value decimal system. Indian mathematicians of this era established zero as a distinct numerical value, allowing for more complex and accurate calculations. These innovations were later transmitted to the Arab world and eventually reached Europe, fundamentally transforming global mathematical thought and scientific inquiry. This achievement represents the intellectual zenith of the Gupta age and serves as a testament to the empirical and innovative spirit of ancient Indian scholars like Aryabhata and his contemporaries.

224. (A) The Chedis of Kalinga
The Hathigumpha inscription is a vital historical document for the history of the Chedi dynasty, also known as the Mahameghavahana dynasty of Kalinga. Located in the Udayagiri hills, the inscription provides a detailed, year-by-year account of the reign of King Kharavela. It records his military campaigns across the subcontinent, his administrative reforms, and his patronage of various public works and religious traditions. This epigraphic source is essential for understanding the political and cultural developments in Kalinga during the first or second century BCE, a period otherwise characterized by a lack of extensive literary records for the region.

225. (A) Visnukundins
The famous reclining statue of Lord Vishnu at the Undavalli caves is a magnificent testament to the artistic patronage and religious devotion of the Visnukundin dynasty in Andhradesa. These multi-storied rock-cut caves, located near the Krishna river, showcase the dynasty's innovative approach to architecture and their strong commitment to Brahmanical traditions. The Visnukundins ruled the region during a period of transition and were instrumental in fostering a unique regional art style that combined rock-cut techniques with sophisticated sculptural imagery. Their contributions left a lasting impact on the cultural and religious landscape of South India before the rise of later medieval dynasties.

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monarchs, providing invaluable historical data. The sophisticated design and high quality of Indo-Greek coinage significantly influenced the subsequent numismatic traditions of the Sakas, Kushanas, and even the Guptas.

214. (A) Gautamiputra Satakarni
Gautamiputra Satakarni was the most powerful ruler of the Satavahana dynasty, renowned for restoring the empire's prestige and dominance in the Deccan. In his inscriptions, he is celebrated as the 'destroyer of Saka, Yavana, and Pahlava power', reflecting his successful military campaigns against foreign invaders. He also claimed to be the 'protector of the varna system', emphasizing his role in upholding traditional social order. His reign marked a significant resurgence of Satavahana authority and a period of cultural and political stability. He remains one of the most prominent figures in ancient South Indian history, symbolizing the strength of indigenous monarchies.

215. (A) Hala
The 'Gathasaptasati', a celebrated collection of seven hundred Prakrit poems, is traditionally attributed to the Satavahana king Hala. These poems are primarily secular and focus on themes of love, village life, and human emotions, providing a vivid glimpse into the social and cultural atmosphere of the Deccan during the early historical period. Hala is remembered as a great patron of literature and an accomplished poet himself. His work remains a foundational piece of Prakrit literature and reflects the flourishing of local languages and artistic expressions under the supportive rule of the Satavahana dynasty during the first century CE.

216. (A) Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir under Kanishka.
The emergence and consolidation of Mahayana Buddhism are closely associated with the Fourth Buddhist Council, convened by the Kushana king Kanishka in Kashmir during the first century CE. The council brought together a large number of scholars to resolve doctrinal differences and codify Buddhist teachings. This gathering was instrumental in the systematic formulation of Mahayana ideas, including the deification of the Buddha and the ideal of the Bodhisattva. The results of the council were inscribed on copper plates and helped facilitate the spread of the Mahayana tradition across Central Asia and China, significantly altering the global course of Buddhist history.

217. (A) Feudal-federal
The polity of the Gupta kings is best described as 'feudal-federal' in nature, reflecting its decentralized and hierarchical structure. While the emperors exercised direct control over their core territories, they governed a large part of their empire through a network of subordinate kings and feudatory chiefs known as Samantas. These local rulers paid tribute and provided military support but retained significant autonomy in their own regions. This system allowed for the management of a vast empire without a massive central bureaucracy. However, this structure also made the empire vulnerable to internal fragmentation when the central authority weakened, eventually leading to its decline.

218. (A) The minister for war and peace.
In the Gupta administrative system, the 'sandhivigrahika' was the high-ranking official who served as the minister for war and peace. This role was crucial for managing the empire's foreign policy and its relationships with numerous subordinate and neighboring kingdoms. The sandhivigrahika was responsible for negotiating treaties, declaring wars, and maintaining diplomatic channels. Notable figures like Harisena, who composed the Allahabad Prashasti, held this prestigious position. The existence of such a specialized ministerial role highlights the sophistication of Gupta statecraft and the importance of diplomacy and military strategy in maintaining the empire's vast territories and political influence.

219. (A) Astronomy
The 'Pancha-siddhantika', authored by the renowned scholar Varahamihira during the Gupta period, is a fundamental text on ancient astronomy. The title translates to 'Five Astronomical Systems', and the work provides a summary of five ancient schools of astronomical thought prevalent in India at the time. It includes calculations for planetary movements, solar and lunar eclipses, and the duration of day and night. Varahamihira's work is significant as it preserves knowledge from older systems that

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peak of artistic and religious innovation during the Gupta age.

244. (A) Ravikirti
The Aihole inscription is a prestigious and vital historical document that records the achievements of the Chalukya king Pulakesin the second, particularly his notable victory over Harshavardhana. The inscription was composed in classical Sanskrit by the court poet Ravikirti, who was also a high-ranking official. It provides a detailed account of the dynasty's genealogy and military conquests. Ravikirti's work is celebrated for its poetic quality and its value as a primary source for the history of the Deccan in the early seventh century CE. Through this record, Ravikirti immortalized his patron's military valor and the establishment of the Chalukyan power in South India.

245. (A) The bull (Nandi)
The Salankayanas, who ruled from Vengi in the coastal Andhra region, used the bull as their royal symbol. The term 'Salankayana' itself is derived from their gotra and is also a word for a bull. This emblem was prominently featured on their official seals and copper-plate grants, signifying their power and their religious inclinations. As staunch patrons of Brahmanical culture, the use of the bull, often associated with the deity Shiva, reflected their personal devotion and their royal status. The dynasty played a crucial role in the political transition of Andhradesa, and their symbolic and religious practices provide deep insights into the local culture of the fourth and fifth centuries CE.

246. (A) Promotion of social welfare and ethical behavior.
Asoka's edicts that prohibit animal slaughter and regulate festivals were fundamental expressions of his policy of Dhamma. These measures were not just religious commands but were intended to promote social welfare and a culture of compassion across his vast empire. By restricting violence and encouraging ethical behavior, Asoka sought to improve the moral character of his subjects and reduce social friction. These regulations reflect his vision of a state that actively participates in the moral and social well-being of its people. This unique approach to governance focused on responsibility and righteousness, representing a significant departure from contemporary political practices that prioritized territorial conquest and force.

247. (A) Movement and narration in crowded compositions.
The most striking and distinctive feature of the Amaravati school of sculpture is its extraordinary sense of movement and narration within crowded and energetic compositions. The artists of this school focused on telling complex Buddhist stories through elaborate panels where multiple figures are depicted in dynamic poses. Unlike the more static and isolated images of other schools, Amaravati art captures the vibrancy of human interaction and emotion with fluid grace. These intricate carvings, made from local white marble, decorated the stupas of the Andhra region and represent a peak of early South Indian artistic achievement, characterized by its sophisticated narrative style and technical brilliance.

248. (A) Kalidasa
The Gupta era is traditionally hailed as a 'classical age' in Sanskrit literature, primarily due to the exceptional and timeless works of the great poet and dramatist Kalidasa. His masterpieces, such as the Meghaduta, Abhijnanashakuntalam, and Raghuvamsha, are considered the peak of Sanskrit poetry and drama. Kalidasa's writing is celebrated for its lyrical beauty, profound insight into human nature, and sophisticated use of the language. His presence in the imperial court as one of the 'nine gems' highlights the era's refined cultural atmosphere. Kalidasa's literary contributions established the high standards of classical Indian aesthetics that influenced generations of writers and scholars across the subcontinent.

249. (A) Harshavardhana
During the reign of Harshavardhana, the practice of remunerating administrative and military officers with land grants became significantly more prevalent than in earlier periods. While cash payments were still used, the move toward granting land rights as salary reflected the increasing decentralization and feudalization of the state apparatus. These grants often included the authority to collect local taxes and maintain order, creating a hierarchy of landed intermediaries between the king and the

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226. (A) Pulakesin II Chalukya
Harshavardhana's ambition to expand his northern empire into the Deccan was decisively checked by the Chalukyan king Pulakesin the second. This historic confrontation took place on the banks of the Narmada river during the early seventh century CE. Pulakesin successfully defeated Harsha's forces, a victory that is celebrated in the Aihole inscription composed by the court poet Ravikirti. This event established the Narmada as the boundary between the northern and southern powers of the time. Harsha's defeat significantly halted his southward expansion and consolidated Pulakesin's status as a formidable and paramount ruler in the Deccan and beyond.

227. (A) State regulation of agriculture, trade, and industry.
A key reason for the economic prosperity of the Mauryan period was the comprehensive regulation of the economy by the state. According to the Arthashastra, the government took a direct role in managing agricultural lands, mining operations, and craft production. Standardized weights and measures were enforced, and trade was monitored through various superintendents. This centralized control ensured a steady flow of revenue and encouraged commercial stability across the vast empire. By providing infrastructure like roads and irrigation, the state further boosted productivity. This organized approach to economic management allowed the Mauryas to sustain their massive administration and maintain a powerful military presence.

228. (A) Buddhist
The subject matter of the Amaravati school of art is predominantly Buddhist, focusing on scenes from the life of the Buddha and the various Jataka tales. Flourishing in the Andhra region, this school is renowned for its dynamic narrative sculptures that decorated the railings and drum of the great Amaravati stupa. The artists used white marble to create intricate and energetic panels that depicted complex religious stories with great fluid grace and detail. This artistic tradition represents a high point of early South Indian creative expression and reflects the region's deep religious commitment and the sophistication of its Buddhist community during the early centuries.

229. (A) Matrimonial alliances with families like the Vakatakas.
The Gupta rulers frequently enhanced their political legitimacy and strengthened their authority through strategic matrimonial alliances with other prominent dynasties. A notable example is the marriage of Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta the second, to the Vakataka king Rudrasena the second. These alliances provided the Guptas with valuable regional partners and secured their influence in crucial areas like the Deccan. By connecting their house with established and prestigious royal families, the Guptas consolidated their position as the paramount power in India. These diplomatic marriages were a key element of Gupta statecraft, contributing to the stability and expansive reach of their empire.

230. (A) Banabhatta
The 'Harshacharita', the earliest historical biography in Sanskrit, was written by the celebrated court poet Banabhatta. The work provides a detailed account of the early life, family, and accession of Emperor Harshavardhana. Banabhatta used a highly elaborate and sophisticated prose style to describe the events of the seventh century CE. His biography serves as an invaluable primary source for understanding the political history and social atmosphere of North India during Harsha's reign. Through this work, Banabhatta not only immortalized his patron's achievements but also demonstrated the high level of literary brilliance that characterized the imperial court at Kanauj.

231. (A) The village headman.
In the administrative structure of Harshavardhana's time, the 'grama-bhojaka' was the term used to refer to the village headman. As the primary official at the village level, he was responsible for managing local affairs, collecting taxes, and acting as a link between the rural population and the higher administration. The village remained the basic unit of governance, and the grama-bhojaka played a crucial role in ensuring the efficient management of local resources and the maintenance of order. This position was often influential within the local community, reflecting the decentralized aspects

influenced by Greco-Roman styles, Mathura art emphasized physical volume and vitality, often depicting figures with a sense of internal strength. The artists of Mathura were among the first to represent the Buddha in human form, laying the foundation for a distinctively Indian style of religious iconography.

208. (A) People from the Greek and Roman worlds.
In Sangam literature, the term 'Yavanas' was frequently used to refer to people from the Western world, particularly those from the Greek and Roman civilizations. They were predominantly traders who visited South Indian port cities like Muziris and Arikamedu to exchange gold and wine for Indian luxury goods such as pepper and textiles. Yavanas were also noted for their skills as carpenters and guards. Their presence in South India is a testament to the vibrant international trade and cultural contacts that characterized the early historical period, highlighting the region's integration into the global commercial network.

209. (A) The Dharmashastras and Smritis (e.g., Narada Smriti)
The Gupta period witnessed the systematic compilation and refinement of major legal texts known as the Dharmashastras and Smritis, such as the Narada Smriti and Yajnavalkya Smriti. These works codified various aspects of Hindu law, including property rights, inheritance, and social duties. They provided a comprehensive framework for the administration of justice and the regulation of social life according to Brahmanical traditions. The codification of these laws reflects the state's role in maintaining social order and the growing influence of Brahmanical authority. These texts remained foundational for the legal and ethical conduct of Hindu society for many centuries to come.

210. (A) Buddhism
Toward the later part of his reign, Emperor Harshavardhana became an enthusiastic patron of Mahayana Buddhism. His deep commitment to the faith is evidenced by the grand religious assemblies he convened at Kanauj and Prayaga. These gatherings brought together thousands of scholars and monks to discuss Buddhist doctrines and engage in spiritual debate. Harsha supported the Nalanda University and dedicated significant resources to Buddhist charitable activities. While he remained tolerant of other faiths, his later years were increasingly focused on the propagation of Buddhist ideals, making it the most prominent religion under his royal patronage in seventh-century North India.

211. (A) The death of Asoka.
The death of Asoka in approximately 232 BCE is traditionally viewed as the starting point for the gradual disintegration of the Mauryan Empire. Without his powerful personality and spiritual authority, his successors struggled to maintain the centralized control established over the vast subcontinent. Provincial governors began to assert their independence, and the empire faced increasing financial pressures and internal friction. Within a few decades, the Mauryan state rapidly fragmented into several regional powers. While the final collapse occurred much later, the loss of Asoka's strong leadership was the primary catalyst for the decline of the first great pan-Indian empire.

212. (A) A new cadre of officials created to propagate Dhamma.
The 'Dhamma Mahamattas' were a specialized cadre of high-ranking officials created by Asoka to propagate and supervise the implementation of his ethical policy of Dhamma. Their primary role was to travel throughout the empire and among different religious communities to promote moral conduct, social harmony, and compassion. They were also tasked with ensuring the welfare of the people, resolving disputes, and supervising the charitable activities of the state. The establishment of this office reflects Asoka's innovative approach to governance, where imperial officials were used as agents of moral reform rather than just administrative control or revenue collection.

213. (A) Issue coins with portraits of kings.
The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in the Indian subcontinent to issue coins featuring realistic portraits of their kings. This practice, introduced in the second century BCE, brought Hellenistic artistic standards to Indian numismatics. Each coin typically displayed the king's image on the obverse and a deity or symbol on the reverse, often with legends in both Greek and Kharoshthi scripts. This innovation allowed for the definite attribution of coins to specific

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238. (A) Harisena
The Prayaga Prashasti, also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, was composed by Harisena, a prominent official and poet in the court of Samudragupta. Written in classical Sanskrit using the kavya style, it is a grand eulogy that details the extensive military conquests and various accomplishments of the Gupta emperor. Harisena occupied several high offices, including that of 'Sandhivigrahika' or minister for war and peace. His composition is one of the most important epigraphic records of ancient India, providing a comprehensive account of the expansion of the Gupta Empire and the imperial ideology that established its dominance in the fourth century CE.

239. (A) The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang
Harshavardhana convened a magnificent and grand religious assembly at Kanauj specifically to honor the celebrated Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang. The assembly was a major event that brought together scholars, monks, and kings from across the subcontinent to engage in intellectual and spiritual discussions. Harsha's personal admiration for Xuanzang and his interest in Mahayana Buddhist philosophy were the primary motivations for this gathering. The assembly served as a platform for Xuanzang to expound on Buddhist doctrines and for Harsha to project his image as a devoted patron of learning and religion. This event is vividly described in the pilgrim's travelogue, the 'Si-Yu-Ki'.

240. (A) modern-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
The Visnukundins were a significant regional power that ruled over parts of modern-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the fifth and sixth centuries CE. They filled the political vacuum left by the decline of the Ikshvakus and established themselves as staunch patrons of both Brahmanical traditions and Buddhist art. Their territories spanned the coastal and inland regions of the southeastern subcontinent. The Visnukundins are particularly remembered for their performative Vedic sacrifices and their role in excavating the multi-storied rock-cut cave temples at Undavalli. Their rule represents a vital chapter in the political and cultural history of the Telugu-speaking regions before the rise of the Chalukyas.

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241. (A) The Sungas and later the Guptas.
After the Mauryan period, the ancient Vedic concepts of 'digvijaya', or conquest of the quarters, and the performance of Ashvamedha sacrifices were revived by several dynasties. Pushyamitra Sunga, the founder of the Sunga dynasty, is recorded to have performed the Ashvamedha to celebrate his military successes and Brahmanical resurgence. Later, the Gupta emperors, most notably Samudragupta and Kumaragupta the first, also performed these grand sacrifices to symbolize their imperial authority and paramount status in North India. This revival reflects a shift back toward traditional Brahmanical rituals as a means of royal legitimation and the assertion of power in the post-Mauryan and Gupta eras.

242. (A) Greco-Roman sculptural traditions
In the Gandhara school of art, Bodhisattva figures are frequently depicted with wavy hair, moustaches, and muscular bodies, which are direct influences from Greco-Roman sculptural traditions. This unique style emerged in the northwestern regions of the subcontinent, where Indian Buddhist themes merged with Hellenistic artistic techniques. The Gandhara artists used realistic anatomical details and flowing drapery similar to classical Greek and Roman statues to represent divine beings. This cross-cultural synthesis created a distinct visual language that made Buddhist iconography accessible and appealing to the diverse population of the region, marking a fascinating chapter in the global history of art and religious expression.

243. (A) Gupta period
The first structural temples in India, built from stone blocks rather than being carved directly out of rock faces, were established during the Gupta period. While rock-cut caves like Ajanta were still being developed, the Guptas introduced the construction of free-standing shrines. These early structural temples were simple square rooms with a small porch, but they represented a major technological shift in Indian architecture. This period served as the experimental foundation for the complex temple designs that characterized later centuries. The transition toward permanent, structural homes for deities reflects the institutionalization of temple worship and the

dynasties. During her regency, Prabhavatigupta maintained close connections with her father's court, ensuring Gupta influence in the Deccan. Her rule is noted for her religious patronage and her role in the administrative stability of the Vakataka kingdom during a crucial period of its history.

196. (A) The field of surgery was completely undeveloped.
Science and mathematics reached exceptional heights during the Gupta period, characterized by several revolutionary discoveries. Aryabhata correctly explained the causes of eclipses and the earth's rotation, and the place-value decimal system was well-established. These mathematical concepts were later transmitted to the Arab world and beyond. Contrary to being undeveloped, the field of surgery was highly advanced, as documented in the Sushruta Samhita, which describes complex surgical procedures and instruments. This era represented a peak of empirical scientific thought and technological innovation in ancient India, marking it as a foundational period for many fields of global scientific knowledge.

197. (A) Harshavardhana
Banabhatta was the celebrated court poet of Emperor Harshavardhana during the seventh century CE. He is most famous for authoring the 'Harshacharita', a pioneering historical biography that provides a detailed account of the early life and accession of his royal patron. Banabhatta also wrote 'Kadambari', which is considered one of the earliest and finest examples of a novel in world literature. His sophisticated and elaborate prose style reflects the high cultural standards of Harsha's court. Banabhatta's works serve as invaluable primary sources for understanding the political history, social life, and intellectual atmosphere of northern India during Harsha's reign.

198. (A) A guild of merchants or artisans.
In ancient India, the term 'Sreni' referred to a professional guild of merchants or artisans who shared a common trade or craft. These guilds played a vital role in the economy by regulating production, setting quality standards, and providing financial services like banking. Srenis were self-governing bodies with their own rules and heads, and they often held significant social and political influence. They also engaged in charitable activities and patronized religious institutions. The state exercised some supervision over them to ensure economic stability, highlighting the importance of organized commercial interests in ancient Indian urban life and statecraft.

199. (A) Gandhara and Mathura
The first human representations of the Buddha were created almost simultaneously at the Gandhara and Mathura centers of art during the Kushana period. While the Gandhara school used Greco-Roman stylistic elements to depict the Buddha with Western features, the Mathura school developed an indigenous style using local red-spotted sandstone. This transition from purely symbolic representations to idol worship was driven by the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and its emphasis on devotion. These two schools laid the artistic foundations for Buddhist iconography, which eventually spread across the subcontinent and into other parts of Asia, significantly influencing the visual language of the faith.

200. (A) Shift in state policy from military conquest to cultural conquest.
The Kalinga War was a transformative event that profoundly changed Asoka's political and personal life. Moved by the immense violence and suffering caused by the conflict, the emperor renounced his policy of military expansion through force. Instead, he adopted the principle of 'Dhamma-vijaya', or conquest through righteousness and cultural influence. This shift in state policy prioritized social welfare, moral conduct, and non-violence. Asoka dedicated himself to propagating Dhamma both within his empire and in distant regions, marking a unique period where imperial authority was used to promote ethical values rather than territorial dominance.

201. (A) Samudragupta
The Allahabad Pillar Inscription, composed by Harisena, describes the extensive military campaigns of the Gupta emperor Samudragupta. The inscription records that he "violently exterminated" several kings of Aryavarta (North India) and annexed their territories directly into

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peasantry. This system reduced the state's direct control over regional resources and marked a transition toward the early medieval political structure in India, where local power increasingly relied on the control and management of land.

250. (A) The Haryankas and Shishunagas
Magadha's rise to imperial dominance was a long process that began several centuries before the Mauryas. The foundations of its power were laid by the Haryanka dynasty, particularly under ambitious rulers like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru, who expanded the state through military conquests and strategic alliances. They were followed by the Shishunagas, who continued to consolidate Magadhan authority in North India. These early dynasties established a strong economic and administrative base and secured control over vital resources like iron ore and fertile agricultural lands. Their successes prepared the way for the Nanda and eventually the Mauryan dynasties to create the first pan-Indian empire in history.

251. (B) It may have created a power disruption on the northwestern frontier.
The Greek invasion led by Alexander had significant impacts on the northwestern frontier of the Indian subcontinent. While the presence of the Greek forces was brief, it likely disrupted existing power structures in the region. This instability created a political vacuum that eventually facilitated the rise of an indigenous power, allowing the Mauryan Empire to establish its influence and control.

252. (A) a combination of military, diplomatic, and administrative methods.
The establishment of the Mauryan Empire was a systematic process that went beyond mere military conquest. While expansion was initiated through strategic consolidation, it also required complex diplomatic negotiations and the administrative integration of diverse regions. This multi-pronged approach allowed the empire to unify a vast portion of the Indian subcontinent under a single, centralized imperial entity for the first time.

253. (C) Political power was fragmented among various regional states.
Before the Mauryan expansion, the political landscape of the Indian subcontinent was characterized by the existence of multiple regional states. The transition into a unified empire fundamentally altered the scale of governance, suggesting that power was previously decentralized. This shift from a cluster of regional states to a centralized entity highlights the earlier fragmented nature of political authority in ancient India.

254. (D) political unification of a vast and diverse subcontinent.
A primary achievement of the Mauryan Empire was the unprecedented political unification of a vast and diverse subcontinent. By consolidating numerous regional states into a single, centralized imperial structure, the empire altered the nature of ancient Indian governance. This massive territorial expansion, which reached from the Himalayas to the southern peninsula, set a new precedent for large-scale political organization.

255. (C) Asoka
Under the leadership of Asoka, the Mauryan Empire reached its maximum territorial extent. His reign saw the empire encompassing a massive area that stretched from the Himalayas in the north to parts of the southern peninsula. It also extended from Afghanistan in the west to Bengal in the east, representing the peak of Mauryan geographic and political influence across the subcontinent.

256. (B) A highly centralized administrative structure
The Mauryan polity was defined by a highly organized and centralized administrative structure designed to manage expansive territories. At the top of this system, the monarch held supreme executive, legislative, and judicial authority. This centralized control was essential for maintaining a complex bureaucracy and a large standing army, ensuring stability and effective governance across the empire's diverse and vast domains.

257. (D) founded on agriculture and state-controlled land revenue.
The Mauryan economy was predominantly agrarian, serving as the foundation for the entire political machinery of the empire. The state exercised significant control over agricultural

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decentralized approach to governance. This shift allowed for a layered political authority where local leaders held power under the broader umbrella of the main imperial dynasty.

292. (A) The widespread practice of making land grants.
A significant development in the agrarian economy during the Gupta-Vakataka age was the widespread practice of making land grants. These grants were frequently bestowed upon Brahmins and religious institutions. This process transformed land management by creating new categories of land rights, which introduced intermediaries between the state and the actual tillers of the soil, altering the rural economic structure.

293. (D) a vibrant monetary economy.
The issuance of a large number of finely crafted gold coins by the Guptas serves as a strong indicator of a vibrant monetary economy. While the agrarian sector remained the fundamental base of the empire, these coins suggest active commercial exchange and economic prosperity. The high quality and quantity of the gold currency reflect the wealth and sophisticated financial systems of the era.

294. (B) It led to the creation of new land rights and intermediaries.
The system of land grants had a major impact on the social and economic structure of the era. By transferring land to religious figures and institutions, the state facilitated the creation of new land rights and the rise of intermediaries. These changes complicated the relationship between the government and the agricultural workforce, leading to a more differentiated and layered agrarian system.

295. (C) Brahmanical and Puranic Hindu norms.
Society during the Gupta-Vakataka age was characterized by the consolidation of Brahmanical and Puranic Hindu norms. This period saw the emergence of devotional worship centered on deities like Vishnu and Shiva, alongside the construction of the first structural temples. These religious and social frameworks became deeply integrated into the cultural fabric, guiding the values and organization of the community.

296. (D) The emergence of Puranic Hinduism and the beginning of temple architecture
The Gupta period is specifically noted for the emergence of Puranic Hinduism and the beginning of structural temple architecture. This era saw the rise of devotional practices focused on deities such as Vishnu and Shiva. The construction of the first built temples during this time marked a significant shift from earlier religious structures, establishing long-lasting traditions in Indian art and religion.

297. (A) Science, technology, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine
The Gupta era is highlighted for remarkable advancements across various fields of knowledge. These include significant developments in science, technology, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. Such achievements laid the crucial groundwork for future intellectual progress. This cultural and scientific flourishing, alongside the establishment of classical norms in Sanskrit literature, justifies the period being described as a golden age of ancient India.

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298. (B) His eclectic approach, patronizing both Shaivism and Buddhism
Harsha is recognized for his eclectic religious policies, which demonstrated tolerance and broad patronage. Although he was a personal devotee of Shiva, he also extended significant support to Buddhism. This is best exemplified by his organization of a grand religious assembly at Kannauj. His approach allowed different faiths to coexist and thrive within his well-organized and stable administrative system.

299. (B) regional powers in the Andhradesa region.
The Salankayanas and Visnukundins are mentioned as examples of regional powers that established their rule in the Andhradesa region. Their existence illustrates the co-existence of strong regional polities alongside larger northern empires like the Guptas. These dynasties contributed significantly to the local political and cultural fabric, demonstrating that power was distributed across various regions of the Indian subcontinent during this period.

300. (A) Cultural and intellectual activities were significant aspects of these reigns.

treatment of subordinates, such as slaves and servants, reflecting an emphasis on moral responsibility rather than specific religious rituals or dogma.

266. (B) A highly polished surface on stone objects
Mauryan art and architecture are renowned for specific technical achievements in stone sculpture and monumental construction. A distinctive hallmark of this period's craftsmanship is the highly polished surface found on stone objects. This unique finish reflects the sophisticated skills of Mauryan artisans, seen prominently in the monolithic pillars and elaborate animal capitals that were characteristic of the imperial artistic era.

267. (B) To act as carriers for the emperor's edicts
Monolithic pillars erected by Asoka across his empire served as critical vehicles for imperial communication. These structures were specifically designed to carry his inscriptions, known as edicts, which detailed his policies and moral code. By placing these pillars in various locations, the emperor ensured that his messages reached a broad audience, making them invaluable sources for understanding his reign and ideology.

268. (A) ensure the edicts were understood by the common people.
In his effort to communicate effectively with the general population, Asoka utilized Prakrit in many of his edicts. As the common vernacular or everyday language of the time, Prakrit ensured that his moral and political messages were comprehensible to ordinary citizens. This pragmatic linguistic choice highlights a sophisticated strategy to bridge the gap between the imperial administration and the public.

269. (C) The northwestern areas
The Mauryan administration adopted a multilingual and multi-script approach to communication, tailored to the linguistic diversity of the empire. While the Brahmi script was widely used elsewhere, the Kharosthi script was specifically employed in the northwestern regions. This script, which was derived from Aramaic, reflects the unique cultural and historical influences present at the empire's northwestern frontier during that time period.

270. (D) The administration adapted its communication methods to regional contexts.
The use of different scripts like Brahmi and Kharosthi for imperial edicts demonstrates a pragmatic and sophisticated administrative approach. By adapting communication methods to fit regional contexts and local linguistic traditions, the Mauryan state ensured its messages were accessible across a diverse empire. This indicates a high level of organizational flexibility and a clear understanding of the cultural variety within the subcontinent.

271. (C) The rise of various regional powers of both indigenous and foreign origin
Following the dissolution of the Mauryan Empire, the Indian subcontinent entered an era characterized by the emergence of various regional powers. This period was not a political vacuum but a vibrant time where indigenous dynasties and rulers of foreign origin competed for control. The political landscape shifted from a single imperial authority to a multi-state system featuring diverse and active political leadership.

272. (B) The Sungas
After the Mauryan Empire collapsed, the Sungas emerged as the succeeding dynasty in the Gangetic heartland. They attempted to maintain a semblance of the imperial traditions established by their predecessors. Their rule represents the indigenous political response in the central region of North India during a period of transition and the subsequent rise of numerous fragmented regional powers across the entire subcontinent.

273. (D) The Deccan
The Satavahanas established a powerful and long-lasting kingdom situated in the Deccan region. They played a vital role in early Indian history by acting as a cultural and political bridge between northern and southern India. Their influence in the Deccan highlights the shift toward significant regional powers that defined the political landscape following the decline of the centralized Mauryan authority.

274. (A) the northwestern subcontinent.
The Indo-Greeks, Saka-Ksatrapas, and Kushanas are primarily discussed in the context of their activities in the northwestern subcontinent. This region experienced various incursions that led

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production and land revenue to fund its massive army and bureaucracy. This framework also involved state ownership of natural resources like forests and mines, alongside regulated trade, creating a robust, state-managed and centralized economic system.

258. (A) The state's economic regulation was essential for sustaining its political structure.
A defining feature of the Mauryan period was the intricate interplay between a centralized polity and a state-regulated economy. Extensive control over agriculture and natural resources was crucial for sustaining the large-scale military and administrative costs. This economic surplus allowed the empire to maintain stability, highlighting how the state's regulatory functions were fundamental to its political power and long-term survival.

259. (C) For administrative, military, and public works expenditures
Revenue in the Mauryan Empire, collected through a sophisticated taxation system involving agriculture, trade, and crafts, served multiple purposes. The generated surplus was utilized for heavy administrative and military expenditures to maintain imperial control. Additionally, funds were allocated for public works and the patronage of various social and religious groups, illustrating a comprehensive and pragmatic approach to state spending.

260. (A) the regulation of agriculture, trade, and natural resources like mines.
State control over the Mauryan economy was extensive and deeply regulated across several key sectors. This included direct management of agricultural production and land revenue, as well as the ownership of forests and mines. Furthermore, the administration regulated trade and commerce, ensuring that resources were efficiently gathered to support the centralized political structure and the empire's vast administrative and military needs.

261. (D) a moral and ethical code for governance and social conduct.
Asoka's policy of Dhamma was not a specific religious doctrine but functioned as a universal ethical and moral code of conduct. It was designed to promote welfare and social harmony across a diverse population. Key principles included non-violence, respect for authority figures like elders and teachers, and the humane treatment of vulnerable groups such as slaves and household servants.

262. (B) a matter of scholarly debate with multiple interpretations.
The influence of Dhamma on the Mauryan Empire's eventual disintegration is a subject of ongoing academic debate. Some researchers suggest that the emphasis on non-violence potentially weakened the military's effectiveness. Others argue the decline resulted from more complex issues like administrative over-centralization or economic strain. This highlights that the relationship between the policy and the collapse remains open to interpretation.

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263. (C) The economic strain caused by maintaining a vast administration
Beyond the policy of Dhamma, various structural issues contributed to the decline of the Mauryan Empire. Significant factors included administrative over-centralization and the resulting economic strain on the state treasury. These financial pressures, combined with internal succession disputes and the emergence of regional consciousness in distant provinces, weakened the central authority, eventually leading to the collapse of the unified structure.

264. (D) The assertion of independence by peripheral regions
As the central authority of the Mauryan Empire weakened, the unified imperial structure began to disintegrate through a multifaceted process. This power vacuum allowed peripheral regions to assert their independence from the center. Consequently, the empire shifted from a single, centralized entity back toward a cluster of regional states, marking the end of the first major political unification of the subcontinent.

265. (A) non-violence and respectful behavior towards elders and dependents.
The principles of Dhamma, as promoted by Asoka, focused on ethical social conduct to maintain harmony within the empire. Core tenets included the practice of non-violence and demonstrating deep respect for elders and teachers. It also advocated for the considerate

283. (B) Its accessibility to lay followers through devotional concepts
Mahayana Buddhism achieved widespread popularity due to its devotional aspects and the concept of the Bodhisattva. These features made the religion far more accessible to the laity compared to earlier traditions. By focusing on personal devotion and the compassionate nature of spiritual beings, Mahayana Buddhism offered a more inclusive path for followers, which contributed to its significant growth during this historical period.

284. (A) Jainism
King Kharavela of Kalinga is identified as a powerful monarch who was a prominent patron of Jainism. His support for the religion is famously recorded in the Hathigumpha inscription. This patronage illustrates that during this period of economic success, diverse religious traditions, including Jainism alongside Buddhism, received significant royal backing, contributing to the rich socio-religious landscape of post-Mauryan India.

285. (C) Economic prosperity and socio-religious developments
There was a dynamic interplay between flourishing international trade and simultaneous socio-religious transformations in post-Mauryan India. The wealth generated from commerce with the Roman World supported the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the patronage of Jainism by rulers like Kharavela. This connection shows how economic prosperity facilitated religious evolution and the spread of new cultural traditions across the Indian subcontinent.

286. (D) The Gandhara school
The Gandhara school of art, which flourished in the northwestern region, is distinguished by its strong Hellenistic or Greco-Roman influence. Sculptors in this tradition primarily used grey or blue-grey schist as their medium. Their works are characterized by a naturalistic style, often depicting the Buddha with western features like wavy hair and garments resembling a classical Roman toga.

287. (C) development as an indigenous tradition using red sandstone.
The Mathura school of art is characterized as a vibrant, indigenous tradition that developed within India. It utilized local red and red-spotted sandstone for its sculptures. Unlike other regional styles, the Mathura school produced a wide variety of images representing multiple religious traditions, including Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical figures, often depicted with a more robust and energetic physical form.

288. (B) dynamic narrative style and use of white marble.
The Amaravati school, located in the lower Krishna-Godavari valley, is renowned for its dynamic narrative style and the use of white marble. Its sculptures feature slender, elegant figures arranged in complex compositions. These artworks often depict Jataka tales with a sense of fluid movement and vitality, setting them apart from the more static traditions of other contemporary regional art schools.

289. (D) It created images for Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical traditions.
The Mathura school is distinguished by the breadth of its subject matter, creating images for various religious traditions. While other schools might have focused primarily on Buddhist themes, Mathura artists produced sculptures of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas alongside Jaina Tirthankaras and diverse Brahmanical deities. This inclusive approach reflects the vibrant and pluralistic religious environment of the region during the post-Mauryan period.

290. (A) Gandhara
A Buddha sculpture featuring wavy hair and toga-like drapery is a classic example of the Gandhara school of art. This style resulted from sustained contact with the West, incorporating Greco-Roman aesthetic elements into Buddhist iconography. Such naturalistic details, which contrast with the styles found in Mathura or Amaravati, are identifying marks of the artistic traditions that flourished in the northwestern frontier.

291. (C) It was characterized by a hierarchical system with feudatory rulers.
The polity of the Gupta-Vakataka age departed from the centralized Mauryan model by adopting a hierarchical system of rule. This structure consisted of paramount sovereigns and subordinate feudatory rulers, indicating a more

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CHAPTER 03

Early Medieval India and Regional Kingdoms

1. Which of the following dynasties was NOT a major power in the Deccan during the early medieval period?
(A) Rashtrakutas
(B) Paramaras
(C) Kalyani Chalukyas
(D) Yadavas

2. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Gangas of Talakad initially ruled as subordinates but later became a sovereign power.
Statement II : The Gangas patronized Jainism, as evidenced by the Gomateshwara monolith at Shravanabelagola.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

3. Match List I (King) with List II (Dynasty) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Bhoja
Q. Amoghavarsha I
R. Mahendravarman I
S. Dharmapala
List II:
1. Pala
2. Pallava
3. Rashtrakuta
4. Paramara
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

4. Who was the founder of the Kadamba dynasty, known for performing Ashvamedha sacrifices?
(A) Kakusthavarman
(B) Ravivarman
(C) Harivarman
(D) Mayurasharman

5. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Western Chalukyas of Badami.
(A) Pulakeshin II was their most famous ruler, who defeated Harshavardhana.
(B) Their capital was at Vatapi (modern Badami).
(C) They were completely annexed by the Cholas in the 8th century.
(D) They developed a unique style of temple architecture, often called the Chalukyan style.

6. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The Rashtrakutas were a formidable power in the Deccan who successfully challenged the authority of North Indian rulers.
Reason (R) : The Rashtrakuta king Dhruva defeated both the Gurjara-Pratihara king Vatsaraja and the Pala king Dharmapala in the tripartite struggle.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

7. The Eastern Chalukyas, an offshoot of the Western Chalukyas, primarily ruled over which region?
(A) The Malabar Coast

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The focus on Sanskrit literature during the Gupta period and Harsha's sponsorship of the grand assembly at Kannauj indicate that cultural and intellectual activities were highly significant. Rulers were active patrons of the arts and religion. This involvement shows that intellectual discourse and literary production were central pillars of governance and social life in these historical eras.

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(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

16. Which of the following is a distinguishing feature of the Cola administration?
(A) A highly centralized bureaucracy with virtually no local autonomy.
(B) The well-organized system of local self-government through 'sabhas' and 'urs'.
(C) The total absence of a standing army, relying on feudal levies.
(D) The complete rejection of land grants and a cash-based system.

17. The Sangam literature, a primary source for the early history of the Ceras, Colas, and Pandyas, is predominantly in which language?
(A) Sanskrit
(B) Tamil
(C) Prakrit
(D) Telugu

18. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The Palas of Bengal were great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism.
Reason (R) : Dharmapala founded the Vikramshila Mahavihara, which became a renowned centre for Buddhist learning.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

19. The Sena dynasty, which succeeded the Palas in Bengal, is known for:
(A) Patronizing Buddhism and building many viharas.
(B) Originating from the Deccan region.
(C) Being champions of orthodox Brahmanism and the caste system.
(D) Promoting trade with the Arab world over Southeast Asia.

20. The Varmans of Kamarupa (modern Assam) ruled from their capital at:
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Gauda
(C) Tamralipti
(D) Pragjyotishapura

21. Consider the following statements about the Bhaumakaras and Somavamsis of Odisha:
1. The Bhaumakara dynasty had several female rulers.
2. The Somavamsis were responsible for the construction of the Lingaraja temple at Bhubaneswar.
3. Both dynasties were primarily Saivite and did not patronize other religions.
4. The Bhaumakaras ruled before the Somavamsis in the coastal regions of Odish(A)
5. The Somavamsis claimed descent from the Moon (Soma).

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 3, 4 and 5

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22. What was the capital of the Maitraka dynasty, which was also a famous center for Buddhist learning in Western India?
(A) Anhilwara (Patan)
(B) Vallabhi
(C) Girnar
(D) Bharuch

23. The Chalukyas of Gujarat, also known as the Solankis, are famous for patronizing the construction of which magnificent temple?
(A) The Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
(B) The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur
(C) The Kailasa Temple at Ellora
(D) The Sun Temple at Modhera

24. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom?
(A) Their empire was primarily centered in Bengal and the eastern Gangetic plains.
(B) They acted as a bulwark against early Arab invasions of North India.
(C) Their most powerful ruler was Mihira Bhoja.
(D) They dominated the tripartite struggle for Kannauj for a significant period.

25. The Kalacuri-Chedis, who ruled in central India, had their capital at:

(B) The area around modern Gujarat
(C) The Kaveri delta
(D) The region of Vengi, in modern Andhra Pradesh

8. Which concept best describes the system of 'legitimation of kingship' in early medieval India?
(A) Kings associating with divine sanction, grand rituals, and mythical genealogies.
(B) Kings establishing legitimacy through military conquest and the exercise of force.
(C) Kings deriving their political authority from a council of ministers and assemblies.
(D) Kings establishing their right to rule through a democratic electoral process.

9. Consider the following statements about the Chalukyas of Kalyani:
1. They succeeded the Rashtrakutas in the western Deccan.
2. Vikramaditya VI was one of their most celebrated rulers.
3. The poet Bilhana wrote the 'Vikramankadevacharita' in his court.
4. They were ultimately overthrown by the Pallavas of Kanchi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1 and 4 only

10. The Kakatiya dynasty, known for the construction of the Thousand Pillar Temple and Ramappa Temple, had its capital at:
(A) Warangal (Orugallu)
(B) Devagiri
(C) Dorasamudra
(D) Kalyani

11. What was the primary cause of the decline of the Hoysala kingdom?
(A) Constant internal succession disputes and destructive civil wars.
(B) Direct annexation by the rapidly expanding Chola imperial forces.
(C) A series of devastating regional famines and peasant rebellions.
(D) Invasions by the Delhi Sultanate forces under Alauddin Khilji.

12. Chronologically arrange the following Deccan dynasties based on their period of prominence, from earliest to latest:
1. Rashtrakutas
2. Western Chalukyas of Badami
3. Yadavas of Devagiri
4. Chalukyas of Kalyani

(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 3, 4, 2, 1

13. The Yadava rulers of Devagiri, who were patrons of the Marathi language, eventually succumbed to the invasions led by:
(A) Mahmud of Ghazni
(B) Muhammad Ghori
(C) Malik Kafur
(D) Tamerlane

14. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Pallavas of Kanchi were pioneers of Dravidian temple architecture.
Statement II : The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram is a monolithic structure carved from a single giant rock.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

15. Match List I (Southern Kingdom) with List II (Prominent Port) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Ceras
Q. Colas
R. Pandyas
S. Pallavas
List II:
1. Kaveripattinam (Puhar)
2. Korkai
3. Mamallapuram
4. Muziris (Muciri)

(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

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to the establishment of several kingdoms. The Kushanas, in particular, created a vast empire extending from Central Asia into North India, contributing to the fragmented yet vibrant political activity of the post-Mauryan historical epoch.

275. (C) It was characterized by a dynamic but fragmented political system.
The post-Mauryan period can be inferred as a time of dynamic and fragmented political activity rather than stagnation. The rise of multiple regional entities, including both indigenous dynasties like the Sungas and foreign ones like the Kushanas, created a complex multi-state system. Each of these powers contributed uniquely to the cultural and political fabric, replacing the previous single centralized imperial authority.

276. (A) A body of classical Tamil literature
Information regarding the society and polity of ancient South India during the Sangam age is derived primarily from Sangam literature. This extensive corpus of classical Tamil texts offers detailed insights into the political organization and social structures of the era. These poems and writings provide a unique cultural perspective on a society where kinship and personal valor were highly valued attributes.

277. (D) a system of co-existing chiefdoms and kingdoms.
During the Sangam age, the political structure of South India was not a single unified empire but was characterized by the co-existence of several chiefdoms and kingdoms. Notable powers included the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas. These entities functioned alongside each other in a decentralized system where local chiefs and kings managed their own territories through warfare, patronage, and resource redistribution.

278. (B) As chiefs focused on warfare, patronage, and redistribution
Rulers of the Sangam period, such as the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas, were not absolute monarchs but were essentially chiefs. Their leadership thrived on military success in warfare and the strategic use of patronage. They maintained their status and social order through the redistribution of resources among their subjects, emphasizing personal bravery and kinship ties as key components of political authority.

279. (C) It was diverse, with communities organized by kinship and occupation.
The social structure reflected in Sangam literature was diverse and organized primarily around kinship, clans, and occupational roles. Communities included various groups such as warriors, priests, farmers, artisans, and fishermen, each with distinct customs. While social hierarchies existed, they appear to have been more fluid than the rigid varna system of North India, with personal valor shaping the social order.

280. (D) Heroism in battle and the generosity of patrons
Sangam society placed a high value on heroism in battle and the generosity of patrons. Classical Tamil literature frequently celebrates these traits, alongside the aesthetics of courtly life and the natural world. Personal valor and the ability to distribute wealth to followers were essential qualities for leaders and warriors, defining the cultural and social expectations of the era's unique regional polity.

281. (A) The substantial influx of Roman coins into India
The flourishing trade between India and the Roman World is evidenced by the substantial influx of Roman gold and silver coins into the subcontinent. This archaeological find suggests a favorable balance of trade for Indian merchants during this period. The abundance of foreign currency highlights the vigor of international commercial activity, which significantly influenced the economic prosperity and cultural developments of the era.

282. (B) an era of economic prosperity.
The emergence of Mahayana Buddhism is linked to an era of vigorous trade and economic prosperity between the 2nd century BCE and the 3rd century CE. This wealth provided fertile ground for religious transformation and patronage. As the economy flourished, new devotional aspects and accessible concepts within Buddhism gained popularity, illustrating the connection between commercial growth and significant socio-religious changes.

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(A) Kannauj
(B) Dhara
(C) Tripuri
(D) Gwalior

26. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Gahadavala dynasty replaced the Pratiharas as the main power in the Kannauj region.
Statement II : Jayachandra, the last great Gahadavala king, was defeated by Muhammad Ghori in the Battle of Chandawar.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

27. Raja Bhoja, a polymath king, philosopher, and patron of arts and literature, belonged to which dynasty?
(A) Gurjara-Pratiharas
(B) Gahadavalas of Kannauj
(C) Kalacuri-Chedis of Tripuri
(D) Paramaras of Malwa

28. The practice of issuing land grants (agrahara/brahmadeya) in early medieval India primarily served to:
(A) Weakening central authority by creating independent and powerful feudal lords.
(B) Integrating territories and legitimizing authority by gaining Brahmana support.
(C) Promoting a uniform system of land taxation across the entire kingdom.
(D) Discouraging agricultural expansion and promoting mobile pastoralism.

29. Match List I (Term) with List II (Meaning) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Brahmadeya
Q. Tirtha
R. Jati
S. Nagaram
List II:
1. A pilgrimage site
2. A town or commercial center
3. A land grant to Brahmanas
4. A social group based on birth/occupation
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2

30. Which model of state formation in early medieval India emphasizes decentralization, the rise of intermediaries, and the subjection of the peasantry?
(A) Segmentary model
(B) Integrative model
(C) Centralized bureaucratic model
(D) Feudal model

31. In the context of early medieval agrarian economy, 'graded land rights' refers to:
(A) A hierarchy of rights over the same piece of land, from the king down to the cultivator.
(B) A system where all peasants owned land equally.
(C) The classification of land based on its fertility for tax purposes.
(D) The right of the village community to collectively own all land.

32. The 'Segmentary State' model for the Chola kingdom suggests that:
(A) The king held absolute political sovereignty over the entire imperial territory.
(B) The king exercised direct control in core areas and ritual sovereignty elsewhere.
(C) The state functioned as a highly centralized and bureaucratized structure.
(D) The state was composed of a series of unrelated and independent segments.

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33. Consider the following statements regarding the early medieval economy:
1. There was a general decline in long-distance trade in the initial phas(E)
2. The currency system became more standardized with an increase in the circulation of gold coins.
3. Land grants led to a more direct relationship between the state and the peasant.
4. Water resources like tanks and wells were often managed by local bodies.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

List I:
P. Ellora Kailasa Temple
Q. Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
R. Sun Temple, Modhera
S. Lingaraja Temple, Bhubaneswar
List II:
1. Chalukyas of Gujarat (Solankis)
2. Somavamsis
3. Rashtrakutas
4. Pallavas
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

69. The tripartite struggle for supremacy over Kannauj involved which three major powers?
(A) Palas, Pallavas, and Pandyas
(B) Chalukyas, Cholas, and Cheras
(C) Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, and Palas
(D) Paramaras, Kalachuris, and Gahadavalas

70. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The early medieval period witnessed the growth and development of many regional languages.
Reason (R) : The patronage of regional kingdoms and the rise of popular Bhakti movements which used the vernacular were crucial factors in this development.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

71. A 'Matha' in the early medieval context was typically:
(A) A center for military and strategic studies.
(B) A marketplace for foreign goods.
(C) The primary residence of the king and his court.
(D) A Hindu monastic establishment, often associated with a particular sect and serving as an educational center.

72. Consider the following statements regarding the position of women in early medieval India:
1. The practice of Sati (self-immolation of widows) is mentioned in inscriptions.
2. Women had full access to formal education in Mahaviharas.
3. The right to property was generally limited to 'Stridhana'.
4. There is evidence of queens ruling as sovereigns or regents.
5. Remarriage of widows was widely encouraged across all castes.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 5
(B) 2, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 4
(D) 1, 3 and 5

73. The 'Ghatikas' associated with the Pallava kingdom were:
(A) A type of water tax.
(B) Military garrisons in border areas.
(C) Colleges or centers of higher learning, especially for Brahmanas.
(D) A guild of sea-faring merchants.

74. The Ceras, one of the three crowned kings of ancient Tamilakam, primarily controlled which region?
(A) The region of modern Kerala and western Tamil Nadu.
(B) The Kaveri river delta.
(C) The northern part of modern Tamil Nadu (Tondaimandalam).
(D) The southern tip of the peninsula (Pandya country).

75. The main objective of the Ghaznavid conquests in India under Mahmud was:
(A) To establish a vast, permanent empire in India.
(B) To spread the message of Islam through peaceful conversion.
(C) To form a military alliance with the Rajput kings against Central Asian rivals.
(D) To acquire the immense wealth of India, particularly from its temples.

76. The Chalukyas of Gujarat, or Solankis, had their capital at:
(A) Anhilwara (Patan)
(B) Vallabhi
(C) Tripuri

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(A) Types of coins in circulation.
(B) Categories of land grants.
(C) Guilds of merchants and artisans.
(D) Royal tax collectors.

42. Indian trade and colonization in Southeast Asia during this period led to:
(A) The significant influence of Indian religion, art, and political ideas in the region.
(B) The complete political conquest of the region by Indian kings.
(C) The forceful imposition of the caste system in societies like Java and Sumatra.
(D) The decline of maritime trade due to constant warfare.

43. Chronologically arrange the following Bhakti saints/philosophers:
1. Ramanujacharya
2. Shankara
3. Madhavacharya
(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 3, 2, 1
(C) 2, 3, 1
(D) 2, 1, 3

44. Which of the following statements about Vaisnavism and Saivism in early medieval India is correct?
(A) Vaisnavism and Saivism were mutually exclusive, and their followers were always in conflict.
(B) Both sects grew immensely, often with royal patronage, and were institutionalized through temples.
(C) Saivism declined significantly during this period, being replaced entirely by Vaisnavism.
(D) The Puranas, a key source for both sects, were composed exclusively in the Gupta period.

45. The concept of 'Dana' (gift-giving) in early medieval society was significant because it:
(A) Was a form of taxation imposed on all citizens by the king.
(B) Was practiced only by the members of the merchant community.
(C) Was a mechanism for the redistribution of wealth and earning religious merit.
(D) Replaced all other forms of religious worship.

46. The Tamil Bhakti movement, characterized by the hymns of the Alvars and Nayanars, promoted:
(A) A highly intellectual and philosophical approach to religion, accessible only to Brahmanas.
(B) The worship of abstract, formless divinity.
(C) The complete rejection of temple worship and idol veneration.
(D) An emotional and personal devotion to Vishnu and Shiva, often challenging orthodox rituals.

47. Shankara's philosophical school, which had a profound impact on Brahminical religion, is known as:
(A) Advaita Vedanta (Non-dualism)
(B) Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism)
(C) Dvaita (Dualism)
(D) Shuddhadvaita (Pure Non-dualism)

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48. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The position of women generally declined in early medieval society, with practices like early marriage becoming more common.
Statement II : Despite the general trend, there are notable exceptions of women rulers and landowners, particularly in regions like Kashmir and the Deccan.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

49. 'Agraharas', 'Mathas', and 'Mahaviharas' were primarily centers of what activity in early medieval India?
(A) Military training
(B) Education and religious learning
(C) Craft production
(D) Judicial administration

50. Match List I (Philosopher) with List II (Philosophy) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) 2 and 3 only

34. The 'Integrative Model' of state formation argues that the early medieval period was marked by:
(A) The emergence and integration of local polities into larger state structures.
(B) A process of political fragmentation and decay.
(C) The complete collapse of urban centers and trade.
(D) The universal application of a single, uniform administrative system.

35. The Arab traveller Suleiman, who visited India in the 9th century, described which kingdom as one of the four great powers of the world at that time?
(A) The Pala Kingdom
(B) The Gurjara-Pratihara Kingdom
(C) The Rashtrakuta Kingdom
(D) The Chola Kingdom

36. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The conquests of Mahmud of Ghazni were primarily aimed at plundering the wealth of North Indian temples.
Reason (R) : His campaigns did not lead to the establishment of a permanent Turkish rule in the Indian heartland, which was a later development.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

37. Alberuni's 'Kitab-ul-Hind' is a valuable source for early medieval Indian society. Which of the following is an INCORRECT observation attributed to him?
(A) He noted the rigidity of the caste system and the concept of untouchability.
(B) He praised the advanced knowledge of Indians in mathematics and astronomy.
(C) He observed that Indians were very open and willing to share their knowledge with foreigners.
(D) He described the Hindus as being insular and having a high opinion of their own culture.

38. The proliferation of 'Jatis' (castes) in early medieval India was a result of all the following processes, EXCEPT:
(A) The absorption of tribal communities into the agrarian society.
(B) The state-led effort to abolish the Varna system entirely.
(C) The emergence of new occupational groups and craft specializations.
(D) The regional variations in social customs and practices.

39. What was the most significant change in production relations in the agrarian economy of early medieval India?
(A) The complete abolition of slavery.
(B) The introduction of large-scale cooperative farming.
(C) The replacement of food crops with cash crops on a massive scale.
(D) The growth of a class of landed intermediaries between the state and the peasantry.

40. Consider the following statements about urban settlements in early medieval India:
1. There was a phase of 'de-urbanization' in the early part of this perio(D)
2. Many new towns emerged as administrative headquarters or market centers (mandapikas).
3. Port cities on the western and eastern coasts flourished due to maritime trad(E)
4. Urban settlements were exclusively inhabited by merchants and artisans.
5. All urban centers had a uniform grid-like layout.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 1, 4 and 5
(C) 2, 3 and 4
(D) 3, 4 and 5

41. In the context of early medieval trade, what were 'shrenis' and 'nigamas'?

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universally absent.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

59. The coins and currency system of early medieval India is generally characterized by:
(A) A uniform, pan-Indian gold currency issued by a central authority.
(B) The complete dominance of the barter system, with no use of metallic currency.
(C) The widespread use of silver coins based on the Roman denarius model.
(D) A relative scarcity of coins in the early phase, followed by a revival of regional currencies.

60. Who were the Alvars of the Tamil Bhakti movement?
(A) Devotees of Shiva who composed the 'Tevaram'.
(B) Devotees of Vishnu who composed devotional hymns.
(C) Jain monks who wrote ethical texts.
(D) Buddhist scholars at the Nalanda university.

61. Chronologically arrange the following events related to external contact:
1. Visit of Suleiman to the Rashtrakuta court.
2. Invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni.
3. Defeat of Jayachandra by Muhammad Ghori.
4. Alberuni completes his Kitab-ul-Hin(D)
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 4, 2, 3
(C) 1, 2, 4, 3
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

62. The main merchandise of exchange in India's trade with Southeast Asia during the early medieval period included:
(A) Heavy machinery from India in exchange for agricultural products.
(B) Horses and war elephants from Southeast Asia in exchange for Indian food grains.
(C) Slaves from India in exchange for silk and porcelain from Southeast Asia.
(D) Spices, textiles, and precious stones from India, in exchange for gold and aromatic woods.

63. The philosophy of Vishishtadvaita, or qualified non-dualism, was propounded by:
(A) Ramanujacharya
(B) Shankara
(C) Madhava
(D) Vallabhacharya

64. Identify the INCORRECT pair of dynasty and its region of influence.
(A) Palas - Bengal and Bihar
(B) Pallavas - Gujarat and Malwa
(C) Gurjara-Pratiharas - Western India and Upper Gangetic valley
(D) Rashtrakutas - Deccan

65. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Feudal model for early medieval India posits a decline in state authority due to land grants.
Statement II : The Integrative model sees land grants as a tool for state expansion and integration of peripheral areas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

66. The great Gomateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola is associated with which dynasty's patronage?
(A) Gangas
(B) Rashtrakutas
(C) Hoysalas
(D) Kadambas

67. What does the term 'Tirtha' signify in the context of Brahminical religions of the period?
(A) A specific type of temple architecture.
(B) A sacred place of pilgrimage, often associated with water bodies.
(C) A philosophical doctrine on the nature of God.
(D) A donation made to a Brahmana or a temple.

68. Match List I (Architectural Site) with List II (Patron Dynasty) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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key feature of the early medieval polity.
Reason (R) : These grants served not only to earn religious merit for the king but also to extend agriculture into new areas and integrate local communities into the state system.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

87. The Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I is credited with the construction of which magnificent monolithic rock-cut temple?
(A) The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram
(B) The Sun Temple at Konark
(C) The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur
(D) The Kailasa temple at Ellora

88. Alberuni's account of India provides a detailed critique of the socio-religious conditions. He was a contemporary of:
(A) Mahmud of Ghazni
(B) Harsha Vardhana
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Alauddin Khilji

89. Match List I (Kingdom) with List II (A significant ruler) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Kakatiyas
Q. Hoysalas
R. Yadavas
S. Senas
List II:
1. Vishnuvardhana
2. Lakshmana Sena
3. Ramachandra
4. Ganapati Deva
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

90. The 'proliferation of castes' in the early medieval period is best understood as:
(A) Social change involving the formation of Jatis due to economic factors.
(B) A sign of inevitable social decay and political disintegration.
(C) The strict enforcement of the four-fold Varna system without change.
(D) A government policy to divide society for easier administration.

91. The Varmans were a significant dynasty in which eastern region of India?
(A) Bengal
(B) Odisha
(C) Bihar
(D) Kamarupa (Assam)

92. The Somavamsis of Odisha were great patrons of Saivism and are credited with commissioning which major temple?
(A) Jagannath Temple at Puri
(B) Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
(C) Sun Temple at Konark
(D) Rajarani Temple at Bhubaneswar

93. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Kalacuri-Chedis were a major power in Central India, centered around the Narmada valley.
Statement II : They were completely subjugated and annexed by the Gurjara-Pratiharas in the 9th century.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

94. What was a primary function of a 'Mahavihara' like Nalanda or Vikramshila?
(A) To serve as a fortress and military outpost.
(B) To function as the administrative capital of the Pala kingdom.
(C) To serve as a commercial hub for land trade.
(D) To act as an international center for advanced Buddhist studies.

95. Consider the following statements about the Paramara dynasty:
1. They ruled the region of Malwa in central Indi(A)
2. Their capital was at Dhar(A)

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(D) Dhara

77. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The administration of the Cola empire was marked by a strong central control and a powerful navy.
Statement II : The Cola village assemblies ('ur' and 'sabha') enjoyed considerable autonomy in local matters.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

78. The Gahadavala kingdom was extinguished following the defeat of its ruler Jayachandra in which battle?
(A) First Battle of Tarain
(B) Second Battle of Tarain
(C) Battle of Waihind
(D) Battle of Chandawar

79. Consider the following statements about the debate on state formation:
1. The 'Feudal Model' highlights political fragmentation and economic declin(E)
2. The 'Segmentary State Model' was primarily applied to the Chola kingdom.
3. The 'Integrative Model' views the period as one of state formation from below, through the integration of local polities.
4. All three models agree on the total collapse of urban life during this perio(D)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1 and 4 only

80. The Maitrakas of Vallabhi ruled in which modern-day state of India?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) Odisha
(D) Karnataka

81. The Bhaumakara dynasty of Odisha is notable in the history of women in public life because:
(A) It was founded by a queen.
(B) It had a succession of several female rulers.
(C) It legally mandated equal property rights for women.
(D) It banned the practice of Sati in its kingdom.

82. In the agrarian system of early medieval India, the term 'peasantry' refers to:
(A) A stratified group with varying rights, from tenants to permanent holders.
(B) A homogenous group of cultivators with identical rights and obligations.
(C) Only the class of landless agricultural laborers and bonded workers.
(D) The class of large, non-cultivating landowners and village headmen.

83. The philosophical system of 'Dvaita' or dualism, which posits a fundamental difference between God, soul, and matter, was articulated by:
(A) Shankara
(B) Ramanuja
(C) Madhavacharya
(D) Basavanna

84. Identify the CORRECT statement regarding patterns of trade in early medieval India.
(A) Inland trade completely ceased due to chronic political instability.
(B) Maritime trade was exclusively conducted with the late Roman Empire.
(C) The main exports were raw cotton and unprocessed iron ore.
(D) Merchant guilds like Manigramam were active in internal and overseas trade.

85. Which of the following was NOT a major regional style of temple architecture in early medieval India?
(A) Nagara style
(B) Dravida style
(C) Corinthian style
(D) Vesara style

86. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : Land grants to Brahmanas and temples (Brahmadeya and Devadana) were a

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Brahmanas.
(B) The king's personal treasury.
(C) A guild of artisans.
(D) A military encampment.

105. Consider the following statements about early medieval society:
1. The Varna system provided the broad framework, but Jati was the reality of social organization.
2. The position of women in public life was uniformly high across all regions.
3. Untouchability as a social practice was non-existent.
4. Tribes were often integrated into the caste system at the lower levels as they became peasants.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) 2, 3 and 4

106. The Kadamba dynasty, an important early kingdom in the Deccan, was founded by Mayurasharman with its capital at:
(A) Banavasi
(B) Talakad
(C) Vatapi
(D) Vengi

107. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Western Chalukyas of Badami and the Pallavas of Kanchi were perennial rivals.
Statement II : The Chalukya king Pulakeshin II sacked the Pallava capital Kanchi, and later the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I sacked the Chalukyan capital Vatapi.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

108. Which kingdom is described by the Arab merchant Suleiman as 'Ruhma' and was praised for its large army and number of elephants?
(A) The Rashtrakuta Kingdom
(B) The Pala Kingdom
(C) The Gurjara-Pratihara Kingdom
(D) The Pandya Kingdom

109. What was the 'Vesara' style of temple architecture?
(A) The style prevalent in North India, characterized by a curvilinear shikhara.
(B) The style prevalent in South India, characterized by a pyramidal vimana.
(C) The style used exclusively for rock-cut caves.
(D) A hybrid style that combined features of both the Nagara and Dravida styles, found mainly in the Deccan.

110. Match List I (Text) with List II (Author/Patron) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Vikramankadevacharita
Q. Kitab-ul-Hind
R. Gitagovinda
S. Rajatarangini
List II:
1. Alberuni
2. Kalhana
3. Jayadeva (under Senas)
4. Bilhana (under Vikramaditya VI)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

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111. The Senas of Bengal, who replaced the Palas, were originally from which region?
(A) Karnataka (Deccan)
(B) Magadha
(C) Kamarupa
(D) Kalinga

112. The term 'Devadana' in the context of land grants meant:
(A) Land gifted to a temple for its maintenance.
(B) Land granted to a military commander.
(C) Land set aside for royal pastures.
(D) A grant made directly to a deity as a legal person.

113. Consider the following statements about the Yadava kingdom of Devagiri:
1. They were a feudatory of the Western

3. Raja Bhoja was their most illustrious king, known for his military victories and cultural pursuits.
4. They were finally overthrown by the Delhi Sultanat(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(D) 1 and 3 only

96. Which term was used for a subordinate or feudatory chief in the political structure of early medieval India?
(A) Adhyaksha
(B) Samanta
(C) Gramika
(D) Amatya

97. The concept of "graded land rights" implies that:
(A) Land was taxed based on its grade or quality.
(B) Different entities, from king to cultivator, held different types of rights over the same plot of land.
(C) Only people of higher grades or castes could own land.
(D) Land was periodically re-graded and redistributed by the state.

98. Chronologically arrange the following South Indian dynasties based on their period of ascendancy:
1. Colas of Thanjavur
2. Pallavas of Kanchi
3. Pandyas of the First Empire
4. Hoysalas of Dorasamudra

(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

99. The changing production relations in agriculture during this period were most directly influenced by:
(A) The introduction of new crops from the Americas.
(B) The decline in the use of iron tools for cultivation.
(C) The large-scale practice of making land grants with fiscal and administrative rights.
(D) The shift from a rural to a predominantly urban economy.

100. Identify the incorrect statement regarding trade and urbanization in early medieval India.
(A) Merchant guilds like the Ayyavole 500 played a significant role in long-distance trade.
(B) Port cities like Tamralipti and Bharuch continued to be important.
(C) There is evidence of a phenomenon termed 'urban decay' in the post-Gupta period.
(D) The currency system was robust and uniform across India, facilitating easy exchange.

101. The Tamil Bhakti movement was spearheaded by two main groups of saints, the Nayanars and the Alvars, who were devotees of:
(A) Brahma and Vishnu respectively
(B) Shiva and Vishnu respectively
(C) Vishnu and Shiva respectively
(D) Ganesha and Murugan respectively

102. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the legitimation of kingship in early medieval India?
(A) Performance of elaborate Vedic sacrifices.
(B) Construction of impressive temples to patron deities.
(C) Holding regular, popular elections to seek a mandate from the people.
(D) Claiming descent from solar (Suryavanshi) or lunar (Chandravanshi) lineages.

103. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The social structure in early medieval India became more complex and rigid.
Reason (R) : The processes of absorbing tribes and the proliferation of craft-based jatis led to a multiplication of castes, and the concept of untouchability became more pronounced.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

104. The term 'Agrahara' refers to:
(A) A village or land granted tax-free to

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List I:
P. Shankara
Q. Ramanujacharya
R. Madhavacharya
S. Nimbarka
List II:
1. Dvaita (Dualism)
2. Advaita (Non-dualism)
3. Dvaitadvaita (Dualistic non-dualism)
4. Vishishtadvaita (Qualified non-dualism)
(A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

51. What was the most significant factor contributing to the growth of regional languages in the early medieval period?
(A) The decline of Sanskrit as a court language and its replacement by Prakrit.
(B) The influence of Arabic and Persian languages brought by traders.
(C) The patronage provided by regional dynasties and the use of local languages in Bhakti literature.
(D) A conscious policy by central empires to promote linguistic diversity.

52. The term 'untouchability' became more rigid and pronounced in the early medieval period. Alberuni refers to these groups as:
(A) Mlechchhas
(B) Vaishyas
(C) Kshatriyas
(D) Antyaja

53. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The temple in early medieval India was not just a religious center but also a major economic and social institution.
Reason (R) : Temples were major landowners, employers, and patrons of arts and learning, and served as banks and treasuries.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

54. The process of tribal communities being integrated into the Varna order often resulted in them being classified as:
(A) Brahmanas, due to their knowledge of forest rituals.
(B) Shudras, as they were absorbed as peasants or craft workers.
(C) Vaishyas, as they took up trade and commerce.
(D) Kshatriyas, if their chiefs became local rulers.

55. Regarding property relations for women in early medieval India, which of the following is the most accurate statement?
(A) Women possessed absolute and equal rights to ancestral property as men.
(B) Women were legally barred from owning property, including personal gifts.
(C) Property rights for women were entirely uniform across all regions.
(D) Stridhana was recognized, but landed property inheritance was severely limited.

56. Which of the following dynasties ruled from Kalyani after supplanting the Rashtrakutas?
(A) Chalukyas of Kalyani (Later Western Chalukyas)
(B) Western Chalukyas of Badami
(C) Kakatiyas
(D) Hoysalas

57. The Hoysala style of temple architecture, known for its intricate carvings and star-shaped plans, is best exemplified by the temples at:
(A) Kanchipuram and Mahabalipuram
(B) Bhubaneswar and Konark
(C) Belur and Halebidu
(D) Khajuraho and Gwalior

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58. Consider the following statements about the administration of early medieval kingdoms:
1. Kings adopted high-sounding titles like 'Maharajadhiraja' and 'Parameshvara'.
2. The administrative structure was often a hierarchy of 'Samantas' or subordinate rulers.
3. Legitimacy was often sought through fabricated genealogies connecting the dynasty to mythical heroes or gods.
4. The concept of a salaried bureaucracy was

Chalukyas before asserting independenc(E)
2. Their kingdom was a major center for the development of the Marathi language and literatur(E)
3. They successfully resisted all invasions from the Delhi Sultanat(E)
4. The mathematician Bhaskaracharya's family was patronized by them.
5. Their capital Devagiri was later renamed Daulataba(D)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 3, 4 and 5

114. The political structure of early medieval India is often described as 'Samanta-chakra' or circle of feudatories. This implies:
(A) A hierarchical and decentralized political formation.
(B) A highly democratic system of governance.
(C) A system where the king ruled without any ministers.
(D) A state with a strong, centrally paid bureaucracy.

115. A significant aspect of India's maritime trade with Southeast Asia was the 'colonization' which is best understood as:
(A) Military conquest and direct rule over Southeast Asian territories by Indian kings.
(B) Large-scale migration and settlement of Indian population in Southeast Asia.
(C) The establishment of Indianized states and cultural influence through trade and religious missions.
(D) The economic exploitation of Southeast Asian resources for the benefit of Indian empires.

116. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The period from c. 750-1200 CE is often termed 'early medieval'.
Reason (R) : This period is characterized by the rise of regional kingdoms and the development of distinct regional cultural traits, marking a transition from the ancient to the medieval period.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

117. Which of the following correctly identifies the core argument of the 'Feudal Model' for early medieval India?
(A) A period of unprecedented economic growth and political centralization.
(B) A period marked by the emergence of new states through a process of integration.
(C) A state characterized by land grants leading to political fragmentation and subjection of peasantry.
(D) A state with direct control in a core zone and only ritual hegemony in peripheral zones.

118. The Kakatiya queen Rudramadevi, one of the few women rulers in Indian history, ruled over a kingdom in which modern state?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Odisha
(D) Andhra Pradesh/Telangana

119. The 'Tamil Bhakti movement' was a challenge to the dominance of which religions in the South?
(A) Islam and Christianity
(B) Brahmanical ritualism, Buddhism, and Jainism
(C) Zoroastrianism and Judaism
(D) Only local folk cults

120. Which of these dynasties did NOT rule from the Deccan plateau?
(A) Senas
(B) Gangas
(C) Rashtrakutas
(D) Yadavas

121. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Gurjara-Pratiharas played a crucial role in defending North India from Arab invasions in the 8th and 9th centuries.
Statement II : The Pratihara capital was at Pataliputra, which gave them control over the eastern trade routes.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are

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(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

200. The concept of 'Dana' and 'Tirtha' grew in importance during this period. They refer respectively to:
(A) Gift-giving and pilgrimage
(B) War and peace
(C) King and priest
(D) Tax and trade

201. Match List I (Concept) with List II (Associated Scholar/Idea) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Feudal Model
Q. Segmentary State
R. Integrative Process
S. Account of India
(C) 1030
List II:
1. Burton Stein
2. Alberuni
3. R. S. Sharma
4. (B) D. Chattopadhyaya
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

202. The Gangas, patrons of the Gomateshwara statue, were a major power in:
(A) Southern Karnataka (Gangavadi)
(B) The Konkan coast
(C) The Vengi region
(D) The Malwa plateau

203. The term 'graded land rights' in the context of the early medieval agrarian economy means:
(A) All peasants held land directly from the king.
(B) Land was graded by quality for revenue assessment.
(C) Only higher castes could own the best grade of land.
(D) A hierarchy of overlapping rights on land was held by different social groups.

204. Which of these southern dynasties was known for its extensive local self-government institutions like 'Ur' and 'Sabha'?
(A) Hoysalas
(B) Colas
(C) Yadavas
(D) Kakatiyas

205. The Maitrakas ruled from Vallabhi, which was a major center for which activity, rivaling Nalanda?
(A) Saivite philosophy
(B) Maritime trade
(C) Buddhist learning
(D) Military training

206. Consider the following statements about the 'Feudal Model' of early medieval state formation:
1. It emphasizes the role of land grants in creating a decentralized political structur(E)
2. It argues that land grants to officials and Brahmanas led to political decentralization.
3. It suggests a decline in trade and urbanism, and the subjection of the peasantry.
4. It posits that kings became stronger and more centralized during this perio(D)
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4

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207. The Paramara ruler Bhoja's capital Dhara was a renowned center for:
(A) Learning and culture
(B) Diamond mining
(C) International trade
(D) Naval construction

208. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The Bhakti movement of the Alvars and Nayanars used the local Tamil language in its hymns.
Reason (R) : The movement aimed to make religion more accessible and emotionally resonant for the common people, breaking away from the exclusivity of Sanskrit-based rituals.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

131. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The early medieval period saw the emergence of several regional styles of temple architecture.
Reason (R) : Royal patronage by regional dynasties was a major factor in the development of distinct architectural idioms like Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

132. All of the following were major kingdoms in the Deccan EXCEPT:
(A) Kakatiyas
(B) Hoysalas
(C) Yadavas
(D) Gahadavalas

133. The administration of water resources, such as the construction and maintenance of tanks ('eris') and canals, was a significant function of which bodies in the Chola kingdom?
(A) The central revenue ministry
(B) The local village assemblies (Sabha and Ur)
(C) The royal army
(D) Guilds of foreign merchants

134. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about marriage and property relations for women in early medieval India?
(A) The concept of 'Stridhana' existed, which constituted a woman's private property.
(B) Early marriages for girls became more prevalent.
(C) Inscriptional evidence points to queens and other royal women making land grants.
(D) Women were universally granted the right to inherit paternal landed property equally with their brothers.

135. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Palas of Bengal were ardent followers of Saivism and persecuted Buddhists.
Statement II : The Senas of Bengal were patrons of Vaishnavism and orthodox Brahmanical traditions.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

136. The Kalacuris of Tripuri engaged in a long-drawn conflict with which neighboring dynasty of Malwa?
(A) The Paramaras
(B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(C) The Gahadavalas
(D) The Chandelas

137. Which model of state formation best explains a situation where a king has direct administrative control only over a core region, while exercising ritual sovereignty over a larger periphery of segmented units?
(A) Feudal Model
(B) Integrative Model
(C) Segmentary Model
(D) Bureaucratic Model

138. Consider the following statements about education in early medieval India:
1. Agraharas, villages granted to Brahmanas, often functioned as centers of Sanskrit learning.
2. Mahaviharas like Nalanda and Vikramshila were primarily centers for Vedic studies.
3. Education was accessible to all, irrespective of caste or gender.
4. Mathas associated with Saiva and Vaisnava sects also served as educational institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) 1, 3 and 4

139. The famous rock-cut 'Rathas' (monolithic temples) at Mahabalipuram were constructed under the patronage of which dynasty?
(A) Cholas
(B) Pandyas
(C) Ceras

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(D) Pallavas

140. What was a key reason for the proliferation of jatis (castes) during the early medieval period?
(A) The absorption of tribal groups and the formation of new occupational guilds.
(B) Royal decrees aimed at creating more social divisions.
(C) The influence of Islam.
(D) A mass migration of people from Central Asia.

141. Chronologically arrange the events in the tripartite struggle:
1. Dharmapala establishes control over Kannauj.
2. Pratihara Vatsaraja defeats Dharmapal(A)
3. Rashtrakuta Dhruva defeats both Vatsaraja and Dharmapal(A)
4. Pratihara Nagabhata II captures Kannauj.

(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 2, 4, 1
(D) 2, 3, 1, 4

142. The Hoysala capital Dorasamudra is identified with which modern site?
(A) Hampi
(B) Halebidu
(C) Badami
(D) Warangal

143. Which of the following is a correct description of the society as depicted by Alberuni?
(A) An insular society, conscious of its cultural superiority and with a rigid caste system.
(B) A tolerant society eager to interact with and learn from foreigners.
(C) A society with a fluid class structure where social mobility was easy.
(D) A society that had abandoned its traditional sciences in favor of Greek knowledge.

144. The Maitrakas, who ruled from Vallabhi in Gujarat, were initially feudatories of which larger empire?
(A) The Mauryas
(B) The Kushanas
(C) The Satavahanas
(D) The Guptas

145. The "Tirtha" aspect of Brahminical religion in this period refers to the growing importance of:
(A) Pilgrimage to sacred sites
(B) Temple construction
(C) Animal sacrifice
(D) Philosophical debate

146. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The economy of early medieval India was solely agrarian, with a complete absence of trade and urban centers.
Statement II : Evidence of merchant guilds, port towns, and regional currency points to the existence of vibrant, though changed, patterns of trade and urbanization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

147. The Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I was a great patron of literature and is sometimes credited with co-authoring which Jaina text in Kannada?
(A) Adipurana
(B) Gadayuddha
(C) Kavirajamarga
(D) Vikramarjuna Vijaya

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148. Consider the following statements about early medieval India:
1. Kings sought to legitimize their rule by claiming divine connections and constructing genealogies.
2. Land grants were a major instrument of both political and economic policy.
3. The period was marked by the complete absence of any form of currency.
4. Trade with Southeast Asia declined and eventually stoppe(D)
5. The Bhakti movement promoted an emotional, personal form of worship.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3 and 5
(C) 1, 2 and 5
(D) 3, 4 and 5

149. The Chalukyas of Gujarat (Solankis) were patrons of which religion, alongside Brahmanism, as seen in the magnificent temples at Dilwara?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Zoroastrianism
(C) Jainism
(D) Islam

150. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The Cola state, especially under Rajaraja I and Rajendra I, undertook successful overseas naval expeditions.
Reason (R) : These expeditions were aimed at controlling the maritime trade routes to Southeast Asia and China, as demonstrated by the campaigns against the Srivijaya kingdom.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

151. Which dynasty of North India was founded by Chandradeva, with its capital at Kanyakubja (Kannauj)?
(A) Kalacuri-Chedi
(B) Gahadavala
(C) Paramara
(D) Gurjara-Pratihara

152. The growth of regional languages like Marathi, Bengali, and Kannada during this period was significantly boosted by:
(A) The composition of popular religious literature (Bhakti) and royal patronage.
(B) The imposition of these languages by the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) The decline in the use of writing.
(D) The exclusive use of these languages in all educational institutions, replacing Sanskrit.

153. Match List I (Regional Kingdom) with List II (Modern Geographical Area) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Varmans of Kamarupa
Q. Maitrakas of Vallabhi
R. Somavamsis of Odisha
S. Hoysalas
List II:
1. Gujarat (Saurashtra)
2. Southern Karnataka
3. Assam
4. Odisha
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

154. The position of tribes in the Varna order during early medieval India can be best described as:
(A) They were often assimilated at the lower rungs of the Varna hierarchy, typically as Shudras, as they adopted agriculture.
(B) They were always integrated as Kshatriyas.
(C) They remained completely outside the agrarian society and Varna system.
(D) They were integrated as a new fifth Varna.

155. The famous Sun Temple at Konark, a monumental chariot-shaped temple, was built by a king of which dynasty?
(A) Somavamsis
(B) Bhaumakaras
(C) Palas
(D) Eastern Gangas

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156. The term 'Samanta' in early medieval polity denotes:
(A) A village headman
(B) A feudatory or subordinate ruler
(C) A revenue officer
(D) A minister of war

157. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : Ramanujacharya's philosophy of Vishishtadvaita provided a strong intellectual foundation for Bhakti.
Statement II : Ramanujacharya argued for the ultimate and unqualified oneness of the individual soul and Brahman, with the world being an illusion.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is

178. The great scholar Alberuni, who wrote a detailed account of India, came in the wake of the invasions of:
(A) Mahmud of Ghazni
(B) Alexander the Great
(C) Muhammad Ghori
(D) Babur

179. The Hoysala temples are renowned for their:
(A) Monolithic structure
(B) Large pyramidal gopurams
(C) Extremely intricate and detailed soapstone carvings
(D) Use of white marble exclusively

180. The last powerful king of the Gahadavala dynasty, Jayachandra, was defeated by Muhammad Ghori in 1194 AD in the:
(A) Battle of Tarain I
(B) Battle of Tarain II
(C) Battle of Rajasthan
(D) Battle of Chandawar

181. Identify the CORRECT pair.
(A) Rashtrakutas - Eastern India
(B) Palas - South India
(C) Gurjara-Pratiharas - North-Western India
(D) Pallavas - Deccan

182. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The early medieval period is considered a 'dark age' due to the complete collapse of society.
Reason (R) : This view is contested by the 'integrative model', which sees the period as a dynamic phase of regional state formation and cultural development.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

183. In the context of the early medieval economy, what does the term 'merchandise and exchange' primarily refer to?
(A) The exchange of land for military service.
(B) The diplomatic exchange of gifts between kings.
(C) The exchange of philosophical ideas between scholars.
(D) The goods traded and the systems (barter, currency) used for trade.

184. The Varmans of Kamarupa ruled in the region of modern:
(A) Assam
(B) Bengal
(C) Odisha
(D) Bihar

185. The Somavamsis and Bhaumakaras were two important dynasties that ruled successively in:
(A) Gujarat
(B) Odisha
(C) Karnataka
(D) Kashmir

186. The Chalukyas of Kalyani are also referred to as:
(A) Later Western Chalukyas
(B) Eastern Chalukyas
(C) Solankis
(D) Early Chalukyas

187. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The feudal model of early medieval India argues for political decentralization caused by land grants.
Statement II : The segmentary model, applied to the Cholas, argues for a highly centralized bureaucratic state.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

188. Which king of the Paramara dynasty was a great scholar and author, credited with writing works on medicine, architecture, and poetry?
(A) Upendra
(B) Bhoja
(C) Munja
(D) Sindhuraja

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169. Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (Capital City) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Gurjara-Pratiharas
Q. Paramaras
R. Gahadavalas
S. Kalacuri-Chedis
List II:
1. Dhara
2. Tripuri
3. Kannauj
4. Kanyakubja/Bhillamala
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

170. Which of the following is the BEST description of the 'Integrative Model' of state formation?
(A) State formation from below where local lineages are integrated into the state.
(B) A process of fragmentation of empires into smaller feudal states.
(C) A state structure with ritual sovereignty but limited administrative political control.
(D) A highly centralized, bureaucratic empire with a strictly salaried officialdom.

171. The 'Nayanars' of the Tamil Bhakti movement were saints devoted to which deity?
(A) Shiva
(B) Vishnu
(C) Brahma
(D) Murugan

172. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Chalukyas of Gujarat were also known as the Solankis.
Statement II : They patronized the construction of the Sun Temple at Modhera and the Jain temples at Mount Abu.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

173. Consider the following factors related to trade and urbanization in early medieval India:
1. The emergence of new market centers known as 'mandapikas'.
2. The activities of powerful south Indian merchant guilds like Ayyavol(E)
3. A documented phase of 'urban decay' in North India post-Gupta perio(D)
4. Flourishing port cities on both eastern and western coasts.
5. A standardized pan-Indian currency system facilitating trad(E)
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

174. The Pala kings of Bengal primarily extended their patronage to which religion?
(A) Jainism
(B) Saivism
(C) Vaisnavism
(D) Buddhism

175. The practice of kings claiming mythical genealogies, such as from the sun (Suryavamsa) or moon (Chandravamsa), served the purpose of:
(A) Political legitimation
(B) Historical accuracy
(C) Economic planning
(D) Social reform

176. Which dynasty, ruling from the Deccan, was a major contender in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj against the Palas and Pratiharas?
(A) Kadambas
(B) Rashtrakutas
(C) Chalukyas of Badami
(D) Yadavas

177. The term 'Bhakti' in the religious context of the period implies:
(A) A path of intense personal love and devotion to a deity
(B) A path of knowledge (Jnana-marga)
(C) A path of ritual action (Karma-marga)
(D) A path of ascetic meditation

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correct.

158. The 'Gangaikondacholapuram' temple was built by Rajendra Chola to commemorate:
(A) His naval victory over Srivijaya.
(B) The coronation of his son as co-ruler.
(C) The conquest of the Pandya kingdom.
(D) His successful expedition to the Ganges river valley in North India.

159. Consider the following characteristics of the early medieval agrarian economy:
1. Proliferation of land grants to religious and secular intermediaries.
2. Emergence of graded land rights.
3. Increasing burden of taxation and obligations on the peasantry.
4. Local management of water resources by village bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

160. Which of the following dynasties was NOT part of the tripartite struggle for Kannauj?
(A) Gurjara-Pratiharas
(B) Pallavas
(C) Palas
(D) Rashtrakutas

161. The Arab traveler Suleiman provided a valuable account of which three contemporary Indian empires?
(A) The Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas
(B) The Cholas, Pandyas, and Cheras
(C) The Guptas, Vakatakas, and Kadambas
(D) The Mauryas, Sungas, and Kanvas

162. The 'Segmentary State' theory, in the context of the Chola Empire, primarily questions the extent of:
(A) The king's direct political control
(B) The king's ritual authority
(C) The empire's maritime trade
(D) The empire's military strength

163. The primary language of administration and literature in the Pallava court was:
(A) Tamil
(B) Sanskrit
(C) Prakrit
(D) Telugu

164. The practice of untouchability, as noted by Alberuni, was applied to those:
(A) Who were foreigners or 'mlechchhas'.
(B) Who had converted to a different religion.
(C) Who refused to pay taxes to the king.
(D) Who belonged to the 'Antyaja' castes, outside the four-varna framework.

165. What was the main motivation behind the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni?
(A) Colonization
(B) Religious conversion
(C) Plunder of wealth
(D) Establishing trade routes

166. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : Women's right to property in early medieval India was largely confined to 'Stridhana'.
Reason (R) : The dominant legal texts of the period, like the Mitakshara and Dayabhaga, gave very limited rights to women, especially daughters and widows, in inheriting ancestral landed property.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

167. A 'Mahavihara' like Vikramshila, founded by Dharmapala, was an institution primarily dedicated to the study of:
(A) Saivite traditions
(B) Vaisnavite traditions
(C) Jaina philosophy
(D) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism

168. The Eastern Chalukyas ruled from their capital at Vengi, which is in the modern state of:
(A) Andhra Pradesh
(B) Karnataka
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Kerala

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189. Consider the following aspects of religion in Early Medieval India:
1. Rise of Vaisnavism and Saivism as major sects.
2. The temple as a central socio-economic institution.
3. The emergence of the Tamil Bhakti movement with Alvars and Nayanars.
4. The philosophical contributions of Shankara, Ramanuja, and Madhav(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

190. The term for trade guilds in early medieval India was:
(A) Sabha
(B) Ur
(C) Samanta
(D) Shreni or Puga

191. The Ceras ruled primarily over the region corresponding to modern-day:
(A) Kerala
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Karnataka

192. One of the major consequences of the system of land grants was the:
(A) Strengthening of the central government's direct control over peasants.
(B) Creation of a class of intermediaries with fiscal and administrative rights over the land.
(C) Decline of agriculture and rise of a pastoral economy.
(D) Abolition of the caste system in rural areas.

193. The capital of the Kakatiya dynasty was:
(A) Devagiri
(B) Warangal
(C) Dorasamudra
(D) Kanchipuram

194. The Yadavas, who ruled from Devagiri, were finally subjugated by the forces of:
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) The Cholas
(C) The Ghaznavids
(D) The Hoysalas

195. Which of the following statements about Alberuni's observations on India is correct?
(A) He found Indian scientists to be ignorant of astronomy.
(B) He reported that Sanskrit was a simple language, easy for foreigners to learn.
(C) He noted the insularity of the Brahmanas and the rigidity of the caste system.
(D) He described Indian society as egalitarian and open to foreigners.

196. The legitimation of kingship in this period did NOT involve:
(A) Claiming divine status or origin.
(B) Patronizing Brahmanas and building temples.
(C) Fabricating genealogies linking them to epic heroes.
(D) Seeking a popular vote of confidence from the general population.

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197. The Chalukyas of Gujarat had their capital at Anhilwara, which is modern-day:
(A) Ahmedabad
(B) Surat
(C) Patan
(D) Vadodara

198. The Kalacuri-Chedis were a major power based in which region?
(A) Malwa
(B) The Tripuri region (Central India)
(C) Bengal
(D) Gujarat

199. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The society in early medieval India was static and unchanging.
Statement II : The period witnessed significant social changes, including the proliferation of castes and the changing status of various social groups.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

122. The system of taxation in early medieval kingdoms was characterized by:
(A) A multiplicity of taxes, including land revenue, professional taxes, and various cesses.
(B) A single, uniform tax on agricultural produce.
(C) The complete absence of taxation, as kings lived off plunder.
(D) A system where taxes were paid exclusively in kind, not in cash.

123. The 'Manigramam' and 'Nanadesi' are well-known examples of what from the early medieval period in South India?
(A) Types of land tenure.
(B) Categories of court officials.
(C) Styles of temple architecture.
(D) Powerful merchant guilds.

124. Consider the following statements about Alberuni and his work:
1. He was a polymath who came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni.
2. His work, the 'Tahqiq-i-Hind' (Kitab-ul-Hind), is a detailed account of Indian society, science, and religion.
3. He learned Sanskrit to study Indian texts in the original.
4. He found the Indian society to be open and free of social barriers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1 and 4 only

125. The Pallava dynasty's main area of rule was a region known as:
(A) Vengi
(B) Chera Nadu
(C) Tondaimandalam
(D) Pandya Nadu

126. The shift from rock-cut architecture to structural temples is a key development seen in the reign of which dynasty?
(A) Pallavas
(B) Rashtrakutas
(C) Palas
(D) Pandyas

127. Which of the following was the capital of the Pandyas, famed as a center of Tamil literary academies (Sangams)?
(A) Madurai
(B) Kanchi
(C) Thanjavur
(D) Uraiyur

128. Match List I (Term from Alberuni) with List II (Meaning) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Antyaja
Q. Brahmanas
R. Kitab-ul-Hind
S. Ghaznavid
List II:
1. Dynasty of Mahmud
2. Alberuni's treatise on India
3. The highest priestly varna
4. People considered outside the Varna system, 'untouchables'
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

129. The concept of Bhakti, central to the religious movements of this period, emphasizes:
(A) Intense personal devotion to a deity.
(B) Mechanical performance of sacrifices.
(C) Asceticism and self-mortification.
(D) The study of philosophical texts.

130. The 'integrative model' of state formation in early medieval India is most closely associated with the work of:
(A) B.D. Chattopadhyaya and Hermann Kulke
(B) R.S. Sharma
(C) Burton Stein
(D) D.D. Kosambi

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(D) A is false but R is true.

209. 'Agraharas' and 'Mathas' are best known in early medieval India as:
(A) Types of taxes
(B) Centers of education and learning
(C) Military units
(D) Trade guilds

210. The Sena dynasty supplanted the Palas in Bengal and were known for their patronage of:
(A) Orthodox Brahmanism and Sanskrit literature
(B) Buddhism
(C) Jainism
(D) Local folk cults

211. The primary region of rule for the Pandyas was:
(A) The area around Kanchi
(B) The Kaveri delta
(C) The southern-most part of the Tamil country, around Madurai
(D) The west coast of Kerala

212. Which of the following does NOT represent a characteristic of early medieval India?
(A) Rise of regional kingdoms
(B) Proliferation of land grants
(C) Growth of regional languages and architectural styles
(D) A highly centralized pan-Indian empire ruling from Pataliputra

213. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Rashtrakutas were a Deccan-based power.
Statement II : The Rashtrakuta king Indra III briefly captured Kannauj, demonstrating their influence in North Indian politics.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

214. The term 'Jati' in the social context of early medieval India refers to:
(A) The four-fold varna division based on Vedic texts.
(B) An endogamous social group often linked to a specific occupation.
(C) A foreigner or outsider residing within the imperial boundaries.
(D) A member of the royal family or the ruling aristocracy.

215. Consider the following statements about the status of women:
1. The practice of Sati is attested in some inscriptional and literary sources.
2. The institution of 'Stridhana' recognized a woman's right to certain forms of personal property.
3. There are examples of women acting as rulers, such as Rudramadevi of the Kakatiyas.
4. Widow remarriage was common and socially accepted in all upper castes.
5. Women were generally excluded from formal, scripture-based education.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 5
(D) All of the above

216. The Pallava rulers are credited with pioneering which style of architecture in the south?
(A) Rock-cut and structural stone temples (Dravidian style)
(B) The Vesara style
(C) The Nagara shikhara
(D) The use of brick and wood exclusively

217. The Gahadavalas ruled over the region of Kannauj before being displaced by:
(A) The Palas
(B) The Rashtrakutas
(C) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(D) The Ghurids (Muhammad Ghori)

218. The main patterns of trade in early medieval India included:
(A) A flourishing coastal and overseas trade, especially with Southeast Asia and the Arab world.
(B) Only inland trade, as maritime routes were closed.
(C) Trade being a state monopoly with no

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architecture and the development of Brahminical institutions. They were often in conflict with their contemporaries, particularly the Pandyas of Madurai and the Chalukyas. The political matrix of the far south was further defined by the Ceras of the Malabar coast, the Colas of the Kaveri delta, and the Pandyas. Among these, the Colas rose to prominence from the 9th century CE onwards, establishing a vast and enduring empire. Their administrative system was highly organized, particularly noted for its sophisticated system of local self-government in villages. Furthermore, the Colas developed a powerful navy that enabled them to control maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean and project their power as far as Southeast Asia. The Pandyas, perennial rivals of the Colas, experienced several phases of ascendancy and decline, often challenging Cola dominance and controlling the pearl fisheries of the southern coast. The Ceras, while less expansionist than the Colas or Pandyas, played a crucial role in the lucrative spice trade with the West. The tripartite struggle for supremacy, especially between the Pallavas, Pandyas, and later the Colas, was a defining feature of the era.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. Which South Indian dynasty is particularly noted in the passage for its powerful navy and control over maritime trade routes?
(A) The Pallavas
(B) The Colas
(C) The Ceras
(D) The Pandyas

257. According to the source, the Pandyas of Madurai were perennial rivals of which major power?
(A) The Rashtrakutas
(B) The Ceras
(C) The Chalukyas
(D) The Colas

258. The passage highlights a sophisticated system of local self-government as a key feature of which kingdom's administration?
(A) The Cola kingdom
(B) The Pandya kingdom
(C) The Cera kingdom
(D) The Pallava kingdom

259. What economic activity is specifically associated with the Ceras in the provided text?
(A) Controlling pearl fisheries
(B) Engaging in extensive territorial conquest
(C) Participating in the spice trade with the West
(D) Developing a powerful navy for projecting power

260. The passage suggests that a defining feature of the political scenario in early medieval South India was:
(A) a consistent struggle for supremacy among the major kingdoms.
(B) the peaceful co-existence of all major dynasties.
(C) the unchallenged and continuous dominance of a single power.
(D) the complete absence of maritime trade and naval power.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The political geography of early medieval India was marked by the emergence of strong regional kingdoms in the eastern and western parts of the subcontinent. In Eastern India, Bengal became a major political center under the Palas, who were notable patrons of Mahayana Buddhism and established institutions like the Vikramashila Mahavihara. The Pala dynasty maintained its influence for several centuries before being supplanted by the Senas, who were staunch supporters of orthodox Brahmanism and contributed to the development of Sanskrit literature. Further east, in the region of Kamarupa (modern Assam), the Varman dynasty established a powerful kingdom, playing a crucial role in the politics of the eastern frontier. In Odisha, the political landscape was shaped by dynasties such as the Bhaumakaras and the Somavamsis. The Bhaumakaras are particularly interesting for the number of ruling queens in their lineage, while the Somavamsis are credited with initiating the construction of the great Lingaraja temple at Bhubaneswar, unifying the major parts of ancient Kalinga. In Western India, the Maitrakas of Vallabhi established a kingdom in Gujarat that became a prominent center for trade as well as for Jainism and Buddhism, with Vallabhi University rivaling Nalanda in repute.

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(A) Kannauj
(B) Tripuri (near Jabalpur)
(C) Vallabhi
(D) Gauda

230. Match List I (Text/Monument) with List II (Dynasty/Author) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I:
P. Kavirajamarga
Q. Sun Temple, Modhera
R. Kitab-ul-Hind
S. Gangaikondacholapuram Temple
List II:
1. Chalukyas of Gujarat
2. Colas (Rajendra I)
3. Rashtrakutas (Amoghavarsha I)
4. Alberuni
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

231. The primary cause for the growth of many regional languages during this period was:
(A) The state-sponsored suppression of Sanskrit.
(B) A decline in literacy rates.
(C) The influence of Persian and Arabic.
(D) The patronage from regional courts and the use of vernaculars by Bhakti saints.

232. The following question consists of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Assertion (A) : The temple in early medieval south India was a complex socio-economic institution.
Reason (R) : Besides being a place of worship, it was a major landowner, an employer of people, a center for education, and a depository of wealth.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

233. The dynasty that ruled from Vallabhi in Gujarat and patronized a famous Buddhist university was:
(A) The Chalukyas
(B) The Paramaras
(C) The Maitrakas
(D) The Gurjaras

234. The Yadava dynasty ruled from Devagiri, which is near modern-day:
(A) Aurangabad
(B) Hyderabad
(C) Bengaluru
(D) Pune

235. The political system of early medieval India was characterized by a hierarchy of power. What was the term for the great feudatories who held significant power under the king?
(A) Gramikas
(B) Amatyas
(C) Purohitas
(D) Mahasamantas

236. The three main philosophical systems that emerged from the debates within Vedanta during this period were:
(A) Nyaya, Vaisheshika, and Yoga
(B) Advaita, Vishishtadvaita, and Dvaita
(C) Buddhism, Jainism, and Ajivikism
(D) Lokayata, Samkhya, and Mimamsa

237. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : The Arab geographer Suleiman praised the military power of the Rashtrakuta empire.
Statement II : Suleiman described the Pala kingdom as 'Ruhma' and noted its large contingent of war elephants.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

238. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the characteristics of the early medieval period?
(A) It saw the rise of numerous regional states.
(B) It was characterized by the system of land grants.
(C) It was a period of political integration under

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268. According to the text, which dynasty succeeded the Gurjara-Pratiharas in controlling the Kannauj region?
(A) The Gahadavalas
(B) The Kalacuri-Chedis
(C) The Paramaras
(D) The Rashtrakutas

269. The Paramara king Bhoja is specifically mentioned in the passage for being a renowned patron of:
(A) military conquests only.
(B) maritime trade and exploration.
(C) art, architecture, and literature.
(D) Mahayana Buddhist monasteries.

270. What does the passage suggest was the primary political consequence of the decline of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire?
(A) The establishment of a unified and stable North Indian state
(B) The immediate cessation of all internal conflicts
(C) The successful invasion and conquest of North India by the Palas
(D) The fragmentation of political authority and the rise of several independent dynasties

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The political structure of early medieval India was characterized by a system of decentralized authority and a complex administrative hierarchy. At the apex was the king, whose power was theoretically absolute but practically constrained by various factors. The legitimation of kingship was a crucial aspect of political ideology during this period. Kings sought to validate their rule through elaborate court rituals, performance of Vedic sacrifices, and the fabrication of prestigious genealogies linking them to mythical solar or lunar lineages. Patronage to Brahmanas and temples served not only as a pious act but also as a vital tool for legitimizing royal authority and integrating newly conquered territories. The administrative machinery was organized into various departments, but the control of the central government often weakened towards the peripheries of the kingdom. This structure often involved a network of feudatory chiefs or samantas, who owed allegiance and provided military support to the king but enjoyed considerable autonomy within their own territories. This model of governance, where power was shared and hierarchical, led to a political system that was often unstable, with the loyalty of feudatories being fluid and dependent on the military strength of the central ruler. The titles adopted by monarchs, such as Maharajadhiraja (king of great kings), reflect this layered power structure, acknowledging the existence of subordinate rulers within the larger imperial framework.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a method for the legitimation of kingship in early medieval India?
(A) Performing Vedic sacrifices
(B) Fabricating prestigious genealogies
(C) Holding democratic elections
(D) Granting patronage to Brahmanas and temples

272. The passage describes the role of samantas or feudatory chiefs as:
(A) central ministers directly appointed by the king.
(B) autonomous rulers within their territories who owed allegiance to a central king.
(C) independent kings who were equal in status to the Maharajadhiraja.
(D) religious heads responsible for temple administration.

273. What does the title Maharajadhiraja imply about the political structure of the time?
(A) The king ruled directly over a completely centralized state.
(B) The king's authority was derived solely from religious institutions.
(C) The king was a foreign conqueror with no local legitimacy.
(D) The king was the highest among a hierarchy of subordinate rulers.

274. According to the source, what was a key function of royal patronage to temples and Brahmanas beyond religious piety?
(A) To serve as a tool for legitimizing authority and integrating territory
(B) To reduce the economic power of the

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(C) Tripartite Struggle
(D) Battle of the Ten Kings

250. The proliferation of castes (Jatis) in early medieval India was a complex phenomenon resulting from several factors. Which of the following was NOT a significant factor?
(A) A policy of enforcing the original four Varnas without change.
(B) The absorption of tribal groups into settled agrarian society.
(C) The emergence of new specialized crafts and professional guilds.
(D) Forms of marriages leading to the creation of new social groups.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The political landscape of the Deccan during the early medieval period was characterized by a dynamic interplay of competing powers. The decline of the Western Chalukyas of Badami paved the way for the ascendancy of the Rashtrakutas, who established a formidable empire that dominated the region for over two centuries. The Rashtrakutas, in turn, were overthrown by their erstwhile feudatories, the Chalukyas of Kalyani, who consciously revived the legacy of their predecessors, the Western Chalukyas. This restoration marked a significant phase of conflict and consolidation in the Deccan. As the power of the Kalyani Chalukyas waned, their vast empire fragmented, giving rise to powerful successor states that carved out their own domains from the erstwhile Chalukyan territories. The most prominent among these were the Kakatiyas of Warangal, the Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra, and the Yadavas of Devagiri. These kingdoms, while inheriting the administrative and cultural traditions of the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas, also developed distinct regional identities. Their constant internecine warfare, however, ultimately weakened them, rendering the Deccan vulnerable to the invasions from the Delhi Sultanate in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Other notable but less dominant dynasties in the Deccan included the Gangas and Kadambas, who were significant regional players in an earlier phase.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, which dynasty immediately preceded the Rashtrakutas as the dominant power in the Deccan?
(A) The Yadavas of Devagiri
(B) The Western Chalukyas of Badami
(C) The Chalukyas of Kalyani
(D) The Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra

252. The passage states that the Chalukyas of Kalyani consciously revived the legacy of which earlier dynasty?
(A) The Western Chalukyas
(B) The Rashtrakutas
(C) The Kakatiyas
(D) The Pallavas

253. Which of the following sets of kingdoms are identified in the source as successor states to the Chalukyas of Kalyani?
(A) Gangas, Kadambas, and Rashtrakutas
(B) Pallavas, Ceras, and Colas
(C) Kakatiyas, Hoysalas, and Yadavas
(D) Palas, Senas, and Varmans

254. What can be inferred from the passage as the primary reason for the vulnerability of the Deccan kingdoms to invasions from the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The lack of distinct regional identities
(B) The decline of the Rashtrakuta empire
(C) The revival of the Western Chalukyan legacy by the Kalyani Chalukyas
(D) The fragmentation and constant internal warfare among successor states

255. The passage implies that the relationship between the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukyas of Kalyani was one of:
(A) peaceful coexistence and alliance.
(B) shared rule over a fragmented territory.
(C) successive domination, where the latter overthrew the former.
(D) cultural exchange without political conflict.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In South India, the early medieval period witnessed the flourishing of powerful monarchies that left an indelible mark on the region's political and cultural history. The Pallavas of Kanchi emerged as a major power, contributing significantly to

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(C) a non-essential aspect of the agrarian economy.
(D) a local enterprise undertaken by communities, temples, or chiefs.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Trade and urbanization in early medieval India, while showing regional variations, were dynamic aspects of the economy. The period was not one of uniform urban decay; instead, it witnessed the decline of some older urban centers and the simultaneous rise of new ones, often centered around forts, administrative headquarters, or temple complexes. Patterns of trade were intricate, involving both inland and maritime routes. Major trade routes connected production centers with ports and political capitals. The coastal regions, particularly in the south and west, were deeply integrated into the vast Indian Ocean trade network. Ports served as crucial nodes for the exchange of merchandise, which included spices, textiles, precious stones from India, and horses, metals, and luxury goods from abroad. A salient feature of this commercial world was the presence of powerful trade guilds, or corporate bodies of merchants. Guilds like the Ayyavole, Manigramam, and Nanadesi operated across vast geographical areas, had their own militias to protect their caravans, and played a significant role in the economic and even political life of the kingdoms. They issued their own inscriptions and maintained collective funds for religious and charitable purposes. This period also saw robust trade and cultural colonization in Southeast Asia, with Indian merchants, adventurers, and religious preachers establishing a strong presence and influencing the development of states and cultures in regions like Sumatra, Java, and the Malay Peninsula.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. Which of the following are mentioned in the passage as examples of powerful merchant guilds?
(A) Ayyavole, Manigramam, and Nanadesi
(B) Brahmadeya and Devadana
(C) Gahadavalas and Paramaras
(D) Shankara, Madhava, and Ramanujacharya

282. The source suggests that new urban settlements in early medieval India often emerged around:
(A) nomadic pastoral camps.
(B) forts, administrative centers, or temples.
(C) isolated agricultural fields.
(D) major river crossings only.

283. What role did the trade guilds play beyond purely commercial activities, according to the text?
(A) They focused exclusively on religious preaching.
(B) They had their own militias and were involved in charitable works.
(C) They were primarily agricultural cooperatives.
(D) They acted as the central government's tax collectors.

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284. The passage indicates that a key aspect of India's external economic relations during this period was:
(A) trade and cultural colonization in Southeast Asia.
(B) a complete isolation from international trade networks.
(C) trade limited exclusively to the land routes of the Silk Road.
(D) the import of spices and textiles from Southeast Asia.

285. What can be inferred about the nature of urbanization in early medieval India from the passage?
(A) It was a period of uniform and widespread urban decay across the subcontinent.
(B) It was a static period with no change in the status of urban centers.
(C) It was a dynamic process involving both the decline of old cities and the rise of new ones.
(D) It was driven exclusively by foreign merchants settling in India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The religious fabric of early medieval India was significantly enriched by the growth of Brahminical religions, particularly Vaisnavism and Saivism. This period saw the proliferation of devotionalism, or Bhakti, which emphasized

Subsequently, the Chalukyas of Gujarat (also known as the Solankis) rose to power, leaving a rich legacy of temple architecture, exemplified by the Sun Temple at Modhera.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, which dynasty in Bengal was known for its patronage of Mahayana Buddhism and founded Vikramashila Mahavihara?
(A) The Senas
(B) The Varmans
(C) The Bhaumakaras
(D) The Palas

262. The source credits the initiation of the Lingaraja temple's construction to which dynasty in Odisha?
(A) The Bhaumakaras
(B) The Somavamsis
(C) The Palas
(D) The Varmans

263. Which kingdom in Western India is mentioned as having a university that rivaled Nalanda?
(A) The Chalukyas of Gujarat
(B) The Senas of Bengal
(C) The Maitrakas of Vallabhi
(D) The Varmans of Kamarupa

264. The passage suggests a significant shift in religious patronage in Bengal when the Palas were supplanted by the Senas. This shift was from:
(A) Brahmanism to Buddhism.
(B) Jainism to Buddhism.
(C) Saivism to Vaisnavism.
(D) Buddhism to orthodox Brahmanism.

265. The Bhaumakara dynasty of Odisha is highlighted in the text for what distinctive feature?
(A) The presence of several ruling queens in their line
(B) Their patronage of Jainism
(C) The unification of ancient Kalinga
(D) Their construction of the Modhera Sun Temple

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The political configuration of North India in the early medieval period was dominated by a struggle for control over the strategically important Kannauj region. The Gurjara-Pratiharas emerged as the most formidable power in this contest, establishing a vast empire that acted as a bulwark against Arab incursions from the west for a significant period. Their empire, at its zenith, stretched across a large part of northern India. However, their authority was constantly challenged by other contemporary powers, leading to the famous tripartite struggle involving the Palas of Bengal and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. Following the decline of the Pratihara empire, several Rajput dynasties arose, carving out independent kingdoms. Among the most prominent were the Gahadavalas, who established their rule over the Kannauj region, and the Paramaras of Malwa, with their capital at Dhara. The Paramaras, particularly under rulers like Bhoja, were renowned patrons of art, architecture, and literature. Another significant power was the Kalacuri-Chedis, who ruled over the Tripuri region (in modern Madhya Pradesh) and were frequently engaged in conflicts with their neighbours, including the Paramaras, Gahadavalas, and Chalukyas. The fragmentation of political authority following the collapse of the Gurjara-Pratihara hegemony created a complex web of alliances and rivalries that ultimately weakened the collective strength of the North Indian kingdoms.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. The passage identifies which dynasty as establishing a vast empire in North India that acted as a bulwark against Arab incursions?
(A) The Paramaras
(B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(C) The Gahadavalas
(D) The Kalacuri-Chedis

267. Which city is mentioned in the source as the strategically important region for which the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas contended?
(A) Dhara
(B) Kannauj
(C) Tripuri
(D) Vallabhi

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private merchants.
(D) An economy based entirely on barter with no currency.

219. The philosophy of Advaita (Non-dualism) is most famously associated with:
(A) Ramanujacharya
(B) Madhavacharya
(C) Vallabhacharya
(D) Shankara

220. The integration of tribes into the caste-based agrarian society often led to their:
(A) Recognition as 'Jatis' within the broad Shudra varna.
(B) Elevation to Brahmana status.
(C) Placement in the Vaisya category as traders.
(D) Complete expulsion from the territory.

221. Which one of the following was NOT a major North Indian kingdom in the early medieval period?
(A) Gurjara-Pratiharas
(B) Paramaras
(C) Hoysalas
(D) Gahadavalas

222. The term for a market town or a commercial center that emerged in early medieval India was:
(A) Agrahara
(B) Matha
(C) Tirtha
(D) Mandapika

223. Consider the following statements:
Statement I : Shankara advocated the path of knowledge (jnana) for liberation.
Statement II : The Tamil Bhakti saints advocated the path of devotion (bhakti) for liberation.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

224. The Western Chalukyas had their first capital at:
(A) Kalyani
(B) Vatapi (Badami)
(C) Vengi
(D) Talakad

NODIA

225. The conquests of the Ghaznavids differed from the later Ghurid conquests in that:
(A) The Ghaznavids aimed at permanent empire-building in India from the start.
(B) The Ghaznavids focused on plunder, while the Ghurids laid the foundation for the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) The Ghaznavids were defeated by the Rajputs, while the Ghurids were victorious.
(D) The Ghaznavids were peaceful traders, while the Ghurids were military conquerors.

226. The Kailasanatha temple at Ellora, a marvel of monolithic architecture, was built by which Rashtrakuta king?
(A) Krishna I
(B) Dantidurga
(C) Amoghavarsha I
(D) Govinda III

227. The 'Untouchability' phenomenon, according to historical sources of the period, meant:
(A) Social avoidance of foreigners.
(B) A political strategy to isolate enemy kingdoms.
(C) The ritual impurity and social segregation of certain caste groups.
(D) The practice of not touching religious idols.

228. Consider the following statements about the Chola kingdom:
1. They possessed a powerful standing army and navy.
2. They undertook major naval expeditions against the Srivijaya empir(E)
3. Their administration featured a remarkable system of village autonomy.
4. They were primarily a land-locked power with no access to the se(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

229. The main center of the Kalacuri-Chedi power was:

merchant class
(C) To promote a single, uniform religious sect across the kingdom
(D) To fund military campaigns against rival feudatories

275. The passage suggests that the early medieval political structure was often unstable primarily due to:
(A) the absence of a clear system of taxation.
(B) the lack of elaborate court rituals and ceremonies.
(C) the fluid loyalty of feudatory chiefs dependent on the king's power.
(D) the exclusive reliance on mythical genealogies for legitimacy.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The agrarian economy formed the bedrock of early medieval Indian society, and its character was profoundly shaped by the widespread practice of issuing land grants. These grants, often inscribed on copper plates, were made by kings and chiefs to Brahmanas (as Brahmadeya), religious institutions (Devadana), and officials. This process led to significant changes in production relations and the agrarian structure. A key outcome was the emergence of graded land rights, where multiple parties could have claims over the same piece of land, ranging from the state, the landlord-intermediary, to the cultivating peasant. This created a class of landed intermediaries who enjoyed fiscal and administrative rights over the donated lands and the people inhabiting them. Consequently, the position of the peasantry underwent a transformation, with many cultivators being reduced to a state of dependency, subject to taxes, forced labour, and restrictions on their mobility. The management of water resources, crucial for agriculture, was often a local responsibility, with the construction of tanks and canals being undertaken by local communities, temples, or feudatories. The taxation system was complex, with a variety of levies on agricultural produce, artisans, and trade. While a metallic coins and currency system existed, its prevalence varied regionally and temporally, with some historians arguing for a decline in the circulation of coins in the initial phase of this period, leading to a more localized and less commercialized economy in certain areas.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. Land grants made to Brahmanas during the early medieval period were known as:
(A) Brahmadeya.
(B) Devadana.
(C) Samanta.
(D) Tirtha.

277. According to the passage, a significant consequence of the land grant system was the:
(A) establishment of a uniform system of land ownership by the state.
(B) empowerment of the peasantry with full ownership rights.
(C) complete disappearance of the taxation system.
(D) emergence of graded land rights and a class of landed intermediaries.

278. The source indicates that the land grant system led to which of the following changes in the status of the peasantry?
(A) An increase in their mobility and freedom
(B) A reduction to a state of dependency with obligations like forced labour
(C) Their elevation to the status of landed intermediaries
(D) A shift from agricultural to exclusively artisanal production

279. What does the passage suggest about the currency system in early medieval India?
(A) A single, unified metallic currency was used uniformly across India.
(B) The use of coins completely ceased, and only barter was practiced.
(C) The prevalence of coins varied, with some arguments for a decline in circulation in certain phases.
(D) Barter was the sole means of exchange, with no coins in existence.

280. The management of water resources, such as tanks and canals, is described in the text as being primarily:
(A) the exclusive responsibility of the central king.
(B) managed by foreign trading guilds.

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a single imperial authority.
(D) It witnessed the development of regional cultures.

239. The 'Nagaram' in the context of South Indian administrative and urban structures referred to:
(A) A commercial town or a settlement of merchants.
(B) A village of Brahmanas.
(C) A residential area for the king.
(D) A military cantonment.

240. The Bhaumakaras of Odisha are historically significant for:
(A) Conquering North India.
(B) Having a number of queens as ruling sovereigns.
(C) Building the Konark temple.
(D) Introducing the Nagara style of architecture to Odisha.

241. Which of the following statements BEST summarizes the debate on state formation in early medieval India?
(A) All historians agree that it was a period of absolute decline.
(B) The debate revolves around whether the period was marked by feudal fragmentation (Feudal Model), ritual sovereignty (Segmentary Model), or a process of state-building (Integrative Model).
(C) Historians unanimously agree that a single, centralized model of state applies to the entire subcontinent.
(D) The debate is solely focused on the economic aspects, ignoring political structures.

242. The Varmans of Kamarupa were a major power in the Brahmaputra valley, corresponding to modern:
(A) Assam
(B) West Bengal
(C) Nepal
(D) Arunachal Pradesh

243. The Gangas of the Deccan ruled from Talakad and were major patrons of:
(A) Vaisnavism
(B) Saivism
(C) Jainism
(D) Buddhism

244. The Hoysalas, Kakatiyas and Yadavas, three major Deccan kingdoms, were all eventually overwhelmed by:
(A) The resurgence of the Cholas
(B) The expansion of the Pala empire
(C) Internal peasant rebellions
(D) Invasions from the Delhi Sultanate

245. Which of the following is a correct statement about Alberuni's account of India?
(A) It is a laudatory account with no critical observations.
(B) It is a superficial travelogue with little detail.
(C) It is a comprehensive and critical study of Indian society, sciences, and customs of the time.
(D) It was written in Persian but based on Greek sources, not Indian ones.

246. The Kadambas, one of the earliest indigenous kingdoms of Karnataka, were founded by:
(A) Pulakeshin I
(B) Mayurasharman
(C) Dantidurga
(D) Vishnuvardhana

247. The most notable feature of the agrarian economy of the period was the 'land grant system'. What was the primary effect of this system on production relations?
(A) It simplified the revenue system.
(B) It empowered the peasants by giving them direct ownership of land.
(C) It led to the collectivization of all agricultural land.
(D) It created a hierarchy of landlords or intermediaries between the king and the actual cultivator.

248. The Pallavas, Ceras, Colas, and Pandyas were the major kingdoms of which region?
(A) South India
(B) North India
(C) Eastern India
(D) Deccan

NODIA

249. The Gurjara-Pratiharas established their dominance in North India after a prolonged conflict known as the:
(A) Kalinga War
(B) Carnatic Wars

a personal, loving relationship with a deity. This devotional fervor found its most tangible expression in the construction of magnificent temples, which became the focal points of religious, social, and economic life. Royal patronage was instrumental in this temple-building activity; kings and queens sponsored temples to display their piety, consolidate their authority, and earn merit. This patronage led to regional ramifications in worship and iconography and fostered the development of distinct regional styles of temple architecture, such as the Nagara style in the north and the Dravida style in the south. Beyond being places of worship, temples were large landowners, employers, and centers of learning and arts. The concepts of dana (ritual gifting, especially to Brahmanas and temples) and tirtha (pilgroup to sacred sites) became deeply embedded in religious practice, integrating diverse communities and regions into a shared cultural-religious landscape. The Tamil Bhakti movement, with its intense, emotive poetry of the Alvars (Vaisnava saints) and Nayanars (Saiva saints), was a powerful catalyst. In the philosophical sphere, this era was dominated by the intellectual contributions of great thinkers like Shankara, who propounded the Advaita (non-dualism) philosophy, and later, Ramanujacharya and Madhava, who offered alternative Vedantic interpretations that provided a philosophical buttress for the Bhakti movement.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the passage, what was the most tangible expression of the growing Bhakti movement?
(A) The composition of philosophical treatises
(B) The decline of royal patronage for religion
(C) The formation of merchant guilds
(D) The construction of magnificent temples

287. The source associates Shankara with the philosophical doctrine of:
(A) Dvaita (dualism).
(B) Visishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism).
(C) Advaita (non-dualism).
(D) Bhakti (devotionalism).

288. The passage mentions the Alvars and Nayanars as central figures in which movement?
(A) The temple architecture movement
(B) The Tamil Bhakti movement
(C) The debate on state formation
(D) The trade colonization of Southeast Asia

289. As described in the text, temples in early medieval India served multiple functions beyond being places of worship. Which of the following was one such function?
(A) Acting as military fortresses
(B) Serving as the sole centers for coin mintage
(C) Formulating foreign policy for the kingdom
(D) Functioning as large landowners and employers

290. The terms dana and tirtha, as explained in the passage, refer respectively to:
(A) ritual gifting and pilgrimage.
(B) temple architecture and pilgrimage.
(C) pilgrimage and ritual gifting.
(D) non-dualism and devotionalism.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

NODIA

The society of early medieval India was structured by the principles of Varna and Jati, exhibiting a high degree of stratification and complexity. While the theoretical four-fold Varna system provided a broad ideological framework, the social reality was dominated by a multiplicity of Jatis (castes), whose status and occupations were determined by birth. This period witnessed a significant proliferation of castes, a process driven by factors such as the assimilation of tribal groups into settled agricultural society, the emergence of new occupational specializations, and regional variations in social customs. The position of women showed contradictory trends. While some women from royal and elite families could participate in public life and owned property, the overall status of women generally declined. Normative texts prescribed early marriage and emphasized a woman's dependence on her male kin—father, husband, and son. However, inscriptions and regional literature suggest variations in marriage practices and property relations, indicating that patriarchal norms were not uniformly enforced. A significant social process was the transformation of tribes into peasants, integrating them into the agrarian economy and assigning them a place, usually at the lower end, within the Varna order. At the very bottom of the social hierarchy

ANSWERS

1. (B) Paramaras
The early medieval period in the Deccan plateau was dominated by several influential dynasties that controlled vast territories. The Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, and Yadavas were significant regional powers that shaped the political landscape of this area. In contrast, the Paramaras primarily exercised their authority over the Malwa region in central India. Their influence did not extend into the Deccan as a major governing power.

2. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Gangas of Talakad represent a significant political entity in southern Karnataka during the early medieval era. They evolved from being subordinate local chiefs to becoming a sovereign power that maintained regional stability for centuries. Their cultural contributions were immense, particularly through their patronage of Jainism. This religious support is famously immortalized in the construction of the massive Gomateshwara monolith, which remains a key pilgrimage site.

3. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Political history in early medieval India is marked by distinct rulers who defined their respective dynasties legacies. Raja Bhoja was a celebrated polymath of the Paramara line in Malwa. Amoghavarsha I stands as one of the most intellectually inclined Rashtrakuta emperors. Mahendravarman I significantly advanced the Pallava kingdom in the south, while Dharmapala expanded the Pala empire in the east, establishing it as a major force.

4. (D) Mayurasharman
The Kadamba dynasty was established in the mid-fourth century by a learned Brahmana who turned into a warrior to assert his authority against the Pallavas. This founder is credited with performing eighteen Ashvamedha sacrifices to signify his sovereign status and military prowess. His reign marked the beginning of an era where indigenous Kannada-speaking rulers exercised significant political power in the southwestern parts of the Deccan.

5. (C) They were completely annexed by the Cholas in the 8th century.
The Western Chalukyas of Badami were a formidable power in the Deccan, known for their victory over Harshavardhana under Pulakeshin II. Their capital at Vatapi served as a center for cultural and architectural development. However, their decline was not brought about by the Cholas, but rather by their own feudatories, the Rashtrakutas. Dantidurga eventually overthrew the last Chalukya ruler, Kirtivarman II, in the mid-eighth century.

6. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Rashtrakutas emerged as a paramount power capable of challenging major North Indian dynasties during the tripartite struggle for Kannauj. Their military strength allowed them to intervene successfully in the politics of the Gangetic plains. King Dhruva demonstrated this superiority by decisively defeating both the Gurjara-Pratihara and Pala monarchs. These victories proved that the Rashtrakutas possessed the strategic and military capability to dominate the entire subcontinent.

7. (D) The region of Vengi, in modern Andhra Pradesh
The Eastern Chalukyas originated as a branch of the Badami Chalukyas when Pulakeshin II appointed his brother as the viceroy of the conquered eastern territories. They established their independent base in the fertile coastal region between the Godavari and Krishna rivers. This kingdom, centered at Vengi, played a pivotal role in the politics of South India for centuries, eventually forming a close alliance.

8. (A) Kings associating with divine sanction, grand rituals, and mythical genealogies.
Rulers in early medieval India utilized various symbolic strategies to establish and maintain their political authority over diverse populations. They

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296. Which model of state formation emphasizes political fragmentation, decline of trade, and the rise of a subject peasantry due to land grants?
(A) The Segmentary model
(B) The Integrative model
(C) The Centralized model
(D) The Feudal model

297. The Segmentary model, as described in the passage, suggests that the king exercised:
(A) direct political control in the core area and only ritual sovereignty in the periphery.
(B) uniform political control over the entire territory.
(C) power based solely on a centralized bureaucratic system.
(D) authority derived from foreign trading corporations.

298. How does the Integrative model view the early medieval period?
(A) As a period of complete collapse of state structures
(B) As a phase of state formation and integration at a regional level
(C) As a direct continuation of the Mauryan imperial system
(D) As a time of economic prosperity and urban growth identical to the Gupta era

299. The passage mentions the accounts of which two figures as providing significant information on India from the Arab and Ghaznavid perspectives?
(A) Shankara and Ramanujacharya
(B) Suleiman and Alberuni
(C) Bhoja and Rajaraja
(D) Varman and Sena

300. The core argument of the Integrative model is presented as a critique of which other model(s)?
(A) It critiques both the Feudal and Segmentary models.
(B) It critiques only the Feudal model.
(C) It critiques only the Segmentary model.
(D) It supports the Feudal model but critiques the Segmentary model.

NODIA

were the "untouchables," groups associated with occupations deemed impure, who were subjected to severe social disabilities and segregation. Their status as a distinct and oppressed segment of society became more rigid during this period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. According to the passage, the social reality of early medieval India was dominated by:
(A) a simple four-fold Varna system with no subdivisions.
(B) a classless society with high social mobility.
(C) a multiplicity of Jatis based on birth and occupation.
(D) a society structured solely around religious affiliation.

292. The source identifies the assimilation of which group as a key factor in the proliferation of castes?
(A) Tribal groups
(B) Foreign merchants
(C) Brahminical priests
(D) Royal officials

293. What does the passage suggest about the position of women in early medieval India?
(A) Women uniformly enjoyed high status and full property rights.
(B) Women were completely excluded from public life and property ownership in all cases.
(C) The practice of early marriage was abolished during this period.
(D) The status of women generally declined, though there were exceptions for elite women.

294. The process described as "tribes as peasants" involved their integration into the agrarian economy and:
(A) their elevation to the highest status in the Varna order.
(B) their assignment to a place, usually low, within the caste hierarchy.
(C) their complete separation from the Varna system.
(D) their transformation into ruling elites.

295. The passage describes the "untouchables" as groups who were:
(A) wealthy merchants outside the Varna system.
(B) foreign warriors integrated into the Kshatriya caste.
(C) associated with impure occupations and faced severe social segregation.
(D) powerful religious ascetics who lived in isolation.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Historiographical debates on state formation in early medieval India offer diverse models to interpret the political, social, and economic structures of the period. One of the most influential, the Feudal model, characterizes the period as one of political fragmentation and economic localization, analogous to European feudalism. It emphasizes the decline of trade and urbanism, the scarcity of metallic currency, and the rise of a subject peasantry due to land grants creating a hierarchy of landed intermediaries. In contrast, the Segmentary model, primarily applied to South India, posits a state with a dual sovereignty: direct political control in a central core area and mere ritual hegemony in the peripheries, which were composed of self-governing local segments. This model questions the idea of a highly centralized, bureaucratic state. A third perspective, the Integrative model, offers a critique of both. It views the early medieval period not as one of decay and fragmentation, but as a phase of state formation at the regional level. This model argues for a process of gradual integration, where local polities, tribal chiefdoms, and lineage-based societies were brought into the structure of a larger state, leading to the growth of regional cultures and polities. Alongside these internal dynamics, contacts with the Arab world were significant. The accounts of Arab travelers like Suleiman provide valuable insights into the political and economic conditions of the time. The Ghaznavid conquests in the 11th century, and the detailed observations recorded in Alberuni's accounts, marked a more disruptive and profoundly informative phase of this interaction.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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frequently claimed descent from legendary solar or lunar lineages to enhance their social status. Furthermore, the performance of elaborate Vedic rituals and the construction of massive state temples served as visible proof of their divine right to rule. These cultural mechanisms were essential for.

9. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Chalukyas of Kalyani re-established Chalukyan power in the western Deccan after the fall of the Rashtrakuta Empire. This period witnessed a cultural renaissance, particularly under the reign of Vikramaditya VI, who was a great patron of arts and literature. The presence of the Kashmiri poet Bilhana in his court led to the creation of significant historical literature. However, they were eventually replaced by.

10. (A) Warangal (Orugallu)
The Kakatiyas emerged as a major power in the eastern Deccan, significantly contributing to the irrigation and architectural landscape of the region. They initially served as feudatories but later established a sovereign kingdom with their political center at Warangal. This capital became renowned for its defensive fortifications and grand religious structures. The dynasty is celebrated for its unique architectural style, seen in the Ramappa and.

11. (D) Invasions by the Delhi Sultanate forces under Alauddin Khilji.
The Hoysala kingdom reached its peak in the southern Deccan, known for its artistic excellence and agricultural management. Despite its regional strength, it could not withstand the military pressure from the north during the fourteenth century. The repeated campaigns led by Malik Kafur, the general of Alauddin Khilji, severely weakened the state. These invasions resulted in the looting of wealth and the eventual collapse of.

12. (B) 2, 1, 4, 3
The political history of the Deccan followed a clear sequence of dominant empires from the sixth to the fourteenth centuries. The Western Chalukyas of Badami first established supremacy, followed by the Rashtrakutas who overthrew them in the eighth century. The Chalukyas of Kalyani later revived the Chalukyan legacy by supplanting the Rashtrakutas. Finally, the Yadavas of Devagiri rose to prominence as the last major.

13. (C) Malik Kafur
The Yadavas of Devagiri were instrumental in the development of Marathi culture and literature in the western Deccan. Their prosperity and strategic location made them a prime target for the expanding Delhi Sultanate. During the reign of Ramachandra, the kingdom faced devastating raids that systematically drained its resources. These military expeditions were led by Malik Kafur, whose successful campaigns paved the way for the ultimate.

14. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The Pallavas were instrumental in developing the Dravidian style of architecture, transitioning from rock-cut caves to free-standing structures. Their capital, Kanchi, and the port of Mahabalipuram showcase this evolution. While many structures at Mahabalipuram are monolithic, the Shore Temple is distinct as it is built using cut stone blocks. It represents the early phase of structural temple construction rather than being carved from a single.

15. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
The maritime prosperity of southern India was driven by several prominent port cities associated with different ruling dynasties. The Ceras controlled the western coast through the busy port of Muziris. The Colas utilized Kaveripattinam at the mouth of the Kaveri for their eastern trade. The Pandyas were famous for the pearl fishery at Korkai, while the Pallavas developed Mamallapuram as a major naval and.

16. (B) The well-organized system of local self-government through 'sabhas' and 'urs'.
The Cola administration is uniquely characterized by its emphasis on local governance and decentralized authority. Villages were managed by assemblies known as urs for general residents and sabhas for Brahmana settlements. These bodies possessed significant powers to manage local resources, settle disputes, and collect taxes on behalf of the state. This system ensured efficient local management while maintaining a strong link between the central authority.

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17. (B) Tamil
Sangam literature provides the earliest reliable account of the social and political life in the southern part of the Indian peninsula. Composed over several centuries by various poets, these works are written in the Tamil language. They offer detailed descriptions of the three great lineages of the south and their interactions. This corpus of literature serves as a vital historical source for understanding.

18. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Pala dynasty of Bengal played a crucial role in the preservation and promotion of Mahayana Buddhism during the early medieval period. They provided extensive royal patronage to various monastic universities, ensuring they remained global centers of learning. Dharmapala, a significant ruler of the dynasty, established the Vikramshila Mahavihara to foster Buddhist studies. This institutional support highlights the state commitment to religious.

19. (C) Being champions of orthodox Brahmanism and the caste system.
The Sena dynasty replaced the Palas in Bengal and brought about a significant shift in the religious and social policies of the region. Unlike their predecessors, the Senas were staunch supporters of orthodox Brahmanical traditions. They emphasized the rigid enforcement of social hierarchies and the Varna system. This period saw a decline in the royal patronage previously granted to Buddhist institutions in favor of.

20. (D) Pragjyotishapura
The Varman dynasty was the first historical ruling house of Kamarupa, bringing the region into the broader political narrative of early medieval India. They ruled from their capital city, Pragjyotishapura, located near modern Guwahati. This dynasty maintained diplomatic relations with major contemporary powers, including the empire of Harsha. Their rule established a foundation for the distinct political and cultural identity of the Brahmaputra valley.

21. (B) 1, 2, 4 and 5
The political history of Odisha was shaped by the Bhaumakaras and the subsequent Somavamsi dynasty. The Bhaumakara period is notable for the unusual frequency of female sovereigns who exercised full political authority. The Somavamsis, claiming a lunar lineage, later unified the coastal and highland regions. They were prolific builders, responsible for the magnificent Lingaraja temple. While they favored Saivism, they generally showed tolerance toward other.

22. (B) Vallabhi
The Maitraka dynasty established a strong regional state in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat after the decline of the Gupta Empire. Their capital city, Vallabhi, became a prestigious center for education and religious discourse. It was particularly famous for its Buddhist monastic university, which attracted scholars from across the country and abroad. This city served as both a political headquarters and a vibrant hub.

23. (D) The Sun Temple at Modhera
The Chalukyas of Gujarat, frequently referred to as the Solankis, were renowned for their architectural contributions and patronage of the arts. They commissioned several grand religious structures that blended aesthetic beauty with symbolic meaning. One of their most spectacular achievements is the Sun Temple at Modhera, known for its intricate carvings and architectural precision. This temple stands as a testament to the.

24. (A) Their empire was primarily centered in Bengal and the eastern Gangetic plains.
The Gurjara-Pratiharas were a dominant power in North India, primarily operating from their base in the western regions and the upper Gangetic valley. They were famous for their role in checking the early Arab advances into the heartland of India. Under powerful rulers like Mihira Bhoja, they successfully contested the control of Kannauj during the tripartite struggle. Their influence was largely concentrated in the.

25. (C) Tripuri
The Kalacuri-Chedi dynasty was a significant political force in central India during the early medieval period. They ruled over a vast territory from their strategic capital at Tripuri, located near modern Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. This location allowed them to interact with and contest the power of neighboring dynasties like

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the Paramaras and Pratiharas. Their capital served as a flourishing center of culture and.

26. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Gahadavalas rose to prominence in the late eleventh century, filling the political vacuum left by the declining Pratiharas in the Kannauj region. They established a stable kingdom that covered much of modern Uttar Pradesh and parts of Bihar. However, their power was eventually shattered by the invading Ghurid forces. The defeat of Jayachandra at the Battle of Chandawar marked the end of.

27. (D) Paramaras of Malwa
Raja Bhoja is celebrated in Indian history as a versatile monarch who excelled in both warfare and intellectual pursuits. He belonged to the Paramara dynasty, which ruled the Malwa region from its capital at Dhara. His contributions to literature, architecture, and philosophy earned him a lasting reputation as a polymath king. Under his leadership, the Paramara kingdom reached its cultural and political zenith in.

28. (B) Integrating territories and legitimizing authority by gaining Brahmana support.
The systematic distribution of land grants was a fundamental tool used by early medieval kings to consolidate their rule. By granting tax-free lands to Brahmanas and temples, rulers established a loyal network of local intermediaries in newly settled or peripheral areas. This process facilitated the expansion of agriculture and provided religious legitimacy to the king through ritual associations. It was a strategy for.

29. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Understanding early medieval Indian society requires familiarity with specific terms that describe various social and economic institutions. Brahmadeya refers to the practice of granting land specifically to Brahmanas. Tirthas represent sacred sites that became central to the religious life of the period. Jati denotes the occupational and social groups that defined individual status. Finally, Nagaram describes the urban settlements that served as commercial centers.

30. (D) Feudal model
The feudal model remains a significant historical interpretation for understanding the changes in the early medieval Indian polity. This perspective emphasizes how the proliferation of land grants led to the decentralization of political power. It argues that the rise of landed intermediaries created a fragmented state where the central authority was weakened. This system often resulted in the increased subjection of the.

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31. (A) A hierarchy of rights over the same piece of land, from the king down to the cultivator.
The agrarian economy of the early medieval period was characterized by a complex system of overlapping land claims. Rather than a simple owner-tenant relationship, multiple parties often held different types of rights over the same plot of land simultaneously. The king might hold ultimate sovereignty, the intermediary held fiscal and administrative rights, and the cultivator held the right to till. This hierarchical.

32. (B) The king exercised direct control in core areas and ritual sovereignty elsewhere.
The segmentary state model offers an alternative view of the Chola imperial structure, questioning the degree of centralized bureaucratic control. According to this theory, the Chola monarch exercised effective administrative power only in the core regions of the empire. In the peripheral territories, the king authority was primarily ritual and symbolic rather than direct and political. These segments maintained a high degree of.

33. (C) 1 and 4 only
The early medieval economy underwent significant transformations, including a shift in trade patterns and resource management. The initial phase was marked by a relative decline in long-distance maritime and land trade. In this rural-oriented economy, the management of vital water resources became a localized responsibility. Local bodies and village assemblies took charge of maintaining tanks and wells to ensure agricultural.

34. (A) The emergence and integration of local polities into larger state structures.
The integrative model views the early medieval period as a dynamic phase of state formation rather than a time of decay. This perspective argues that regional states were built by systematically absorbing local and tribal lineages into broader political and social frameworks. This process

involved the expansion of agriculture through land grants and the spread of state ideology through religious institutions. It emphasizes the.

35. (C) The Rashtrakuta Kingdom
Arab travelers provided important external perspectives on the political landscape of early medieval India. Suleiman, a ninth-century merchant, was particularly impressed by the power and wealth of the Rashtrakuta Empire. He categorized it alongside the major world powers of his time, noting its formidable military and vast resources. This observation reflects the high international standing and military dominance that the Rashtrakutas.

36. (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
Mahmud of Ghazni led multiple military expeditions into India, primarily focusing on the accumulation of wealth from prosperous temple towns. These raids caused significant destruction but did not aim to establish a permanent political presence in the heart of the subcontinent. The creation of a lasting Turkish state was a separate historical development that occurred much later. While both statements are accurate, the.

37. (C) He observed that Indians were very open and willing to share their knowledge with foreigners.
Alberuni provided a detailed and critical account of Indian society in the eleventh century, noting various cultural and intellectual traits. He observed that contemporary Hindus were often insular and possessed a high degree of cultural pride. According to his observations, they were generally reluctant to share their scientific and philosophical knowledge with outsiders. This perceived secrecy stood in contrast to their advanced.

38. (B) The state-led effort to abolish the Varna system entirely.
The proliferation of numerous jatis was a defining feature of the social evolution during the early medieval period. This process was driven by the integration of tribal communities into the agrarian economy and the emergence of specialized craft groups. Regional variations in customs also contributed to the multiplication of social identities. However, there was no systematic effort by the state to abolish the traditional.

39. (D) The growth of a class of landed intermediaries between the state and the peasantry.
The most significant transformation in the early medieval agrarian structure was the emergence of a powerful group of intermediaries. Through the systematic issuance of land grants, the state transferred its fiscal and administrative rights to various religious and secular individuals. This created a new social layer that stood between the monarch and the actual tillers of the soil. This development profoundly altered the.

40. (A) 1, 2 and 3
Urbanization in early medieval India followed a complex trajectory of decline and subsequent revival. The initial centuries after the fall of the Guptas saw a decrease in some established urban centers. However, new types of towns gradually emerged as administrative hubs or local market centers known as mandapikas. Coastal port cities also continued to play a vital role in connecting regional economies with international.

41. (C) Guilds of merchants and artisans.
Economic activity during the early medieval period was organized through various collective bodies that regulated trade and production. Shrenis and nigamas functioned as professional guilds for merchants and skilled craftsmen. These organizations were responsible for setting standards, managing resources, and representing the interests of their members before the state. They played a crucial role in maintaining economic.

42. (A) The significant influence of Indian religion, art, and political ideas in the region.
Indian maritime activities in Southeast Asia led to profound cultural interactions that shaped the development of regional kingdoms. This process resulted in the adoption of Indian religious traditions, artistic styles, and administrative concepts by local elites. It was a peaceful transmission of ideas through trade and religious missions rather than a military conquest. The legacy of this influence is still.

43. (D) 2, 1, 3

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The philosophical landscape of early medieval India was defined by several prominent thinkers who interpreted the Vedanta in distinct ways. Shankara, who promoted non-dualism, lived during the eighth century. Ramanujacharya, the proponent of qualified non-dualism, followed in the eleventh century. Finally, Madhavacharya, who articulated the dualist philosophy, emerged in the thirteenth century. This sequence reflects the chronological development.

44. (B) Both sects grew immensely, often with royal patronage, and were institutionalized through temples.
Vaisnavism and Saivism became the dominant religious traditions in early medieval India, significantly overshadowing earlier Buddhist and Jaina influences. Both sects received extensive support from various ruling dynasties, which led to the construction of magnificent state temples. These religious institutions became centers of social and economic life, firmly rooting the two sects in the regional landscape. This period.

45. (C) Was a mechanism for the redistribution of wealth and earning religious merit.
The practice of dana, or ritual gift-giving, was a central social and religious obligation for the elite in early medieval society. Rulers and wealthy individuals made substantial donations to Brahmanas, temples, and monastic institutions. This practice served as a way to earn spiritual merit and enhance social status while also facilitating the flow of resources to cultural centers. It was a key mechanism for.

46. (D) An emotional and personal devotion to Vishnu and Shiva, often challenging orthodox rituals.
The Bhakti movement in South India represented a transformative shift in religious expression, emphasizing personal experience over rigid ritualism. The Alvars and Nayanars composed deeply emotional hymns in the vernacular Tamil language, making religious devotion accessible to all sections of society. This movement often bypassed traditional hierarchies and fostered a more inclusive religious atmosphere centered on intense.

47. (A) Advaita Vedanta (Non-dualism)
Shankara is one of the most influential philosophers in Indian history, known for his systematic interpretation of the Upanishads. He established the school of Advaita Vedanta, which posits the absolute oneness of the individual soul and the supreme reality. This philosophy argues that the perceived diversity of the world is an illusion and that true knowledge leads to the realization of non-duality. His.

48. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The social status of women in early medieval India was characterized by both general restrictive trends and significant regional exceptions. While many social norms became more rigid and early marriages increased, women in certain regions maintained higher levels of public influence. Queens in Kashmir and the Deccan are recorded as ruling independently or as regents. These instances show that despite broader societal.

49. (B) Education and religious learning
Educational life in early medieval India revolved around specific institutions that were supported by royal and private grants. Agraharas were villages specifically established for Brahmanas to foster Sanskrit learning. Mathas served as monastic educational centers associated with different religious sects. Mahaviharas, like the ones in Bengal and Bihar, were renowned universities for advanced studies. These centers preserved.

50. (A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
The development of Indian philosophy during this period was marked by different interpretations of the relationship between God and the individual. Shankara emphasized the concept of non-dualism. Ramanujacharya proposed a qualified version of monism that incorporated personal devotion. Madhavacharya argued for a fundamental duality between the divine and the soul. Nimbarka later introduced a philosophy that blended.

51. (C) The patronage provided by regional dynasties and the use of local languages in Bhakti literature.
The early medieval period witnessed a significant growth in regional linguistic identities across the Indian subcontinent. This development was fueled by the support of regional ruling houses who used local languages for administrative

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and cultural purposes. Additionally, the Bhakti saints composed their devotional hymns in the vernacular, making spiritual literature accessible to the common people. This combined.

52. (D) Antyaja
Social stratification in early medieval India included groups that were placed outside the formal four-fold Varna system. Alberuni, the Persian scholar, observed and documented these social divisions in detail. He used the term antyaja to describe these communities who lived on the margins of society and were subjected to various social exclusions. The concept of ritual untouchability became more clearly.

53. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Temples in early medieval India functioned as much more than simple places of religious worship. They were massive economic entities that managed vast agricultural lands and employed large numbers of people in various capacities. Additionally, they acted as social hubs and repositories of wealth, often serving as local banks. Their role as patrons of the arts and centers of education made them.

54. (B) Shudras, as they were absorbed as peasants or craft workers.
The expansion of the agrarian frontier during the early medieval period led to the systematic absorption of various tribal communities. As these groups transitioned from forest-based livelihoods to settled agriculture, they were integrated into the broader Varna hierarchy. Most frequently, they were categorized as Shudras, reflecting their roles as cultivators or artisans within the rural economy. This process was a major factor.

55. (D) Stridhana was recognized, but landed property inheritance was severely limited.
Legal and social norms regarding women ownership of property remained restrictive during the early medieval period. The concept of stridhana allowed women to possess certain forms of personal property like jewelry and gifts. However, their rights to inherit or manage immovable landed property were generally constrained by dominant patriarchal legal traditions. While some regional variations existed, the overall trend limited.

56. (A) Chalukyas of Kalyani (Later Western Chalukyas)
After the decline of the Rashtrakutas in the late tenth century, a new branch of the Chalukya family re-asserted its dominance in the western Deccan. Known as the Chalukyas of Kalyani, they established their capital at the city of Kalyani. They became a major power, contesting territory with the Cholas and later being succeeded by their own feudatories. Their reign is notable.

57. (C) Belur and Halebidu
The Hoysala dynasty is celebrated for its highly distinct and ornate style of temple architecture in the southern Deccan. Their temples are characterized by star-shaped ground plans and incredibly intricate soapstone carvings that cover every available surface. The most famous examples of this unique artistic achievement are found at Belur and Halebidu, their former capitals. These structures reflect the dynasty.

58. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Early medieval administration was characterized by the adoption of grandiose titles by monarchs to signal their supreme status. The political structure was often decentralized, consisting of a network of samantas who provided military and administrative support. To further bolster their authority, ruling dynasties frequently claimed prestigious lineages connecting them to ancient gods or heroes. While bureaucracies existed, they were not.

59. (D) A relative scarcity of coins in the early phase, followed by a revival of regional currencies.
The monetary history of the early medieval period reflects broader shifts in the economy and trade. The initial centuries following the Guptas saw a decrease in the circulation of high-quality metallic coins in many regions. However, as regional kingdoms consolidated and trade revived, there was a resurgence of local currencies. These coins varied in weight and purity, reflecting the decentralized.

60. (B) Devotees of Vishnu who composed devotional hymns.
The Alvars were a group of twelve poet-saints who played a crucial role in the early development of the Bhakti movement in South India. They were intensely devoted to the deity Vishnu and

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composed thousands of hymns expressing their spiritual longing. These compositions were later compiled into the Nalayira Divya Prabandham. Their work, written in Tamil, helped to democratize.

61. (C) 1, 2, 4 and 3
The sequence of external contacts and invasions significantly impacted the political landscape of early medieval India. Suleiman visited the Rashtrakuta court in the mid-ninth century, providing an early Arab perspective. The devastating raids of Mahmud of Ghazni occurred in the early eleventh century. During this time, Alberuni completed his famous study of Indian culture. Finally, the defeat of Jayachandra in the late.

62. (D) Spices, textiles, and precious stones from India, in exchange for gold and aromatic woods.
Indian maritime trade with Southeast Asia was a vibrant and profitable enterprise during the early medieval period. India exported high-quality textiles, aromatic spices, and manufactured luxury items like precious stones. In return, Indian merchants brought back valuable commodities such as gold and distinct aromatic woods from the island regions. This commercial exchange was accompanied by a significant cultural.

63. (A) Ramanujacharya
Ramanujacharya was a pivotal philosopher and theologian who sought to integrate the path of devotion with the intellectual traditions of Vedanta. He developed the philosophy of Vishishtadvaita, which maintains that while the soul and the world are real, they are inseparable from the supreme reality. This school of thought provided a solid theoretical framework for the growing Vaisnava Bhakti movement. His teachings emphasized.

64. (B) Pallavas - Gujarat and Malwa
The major dynasties of early medieval India each had a distinct core region where they exercised their primary influence. The Palas dominated the eastern regions of Bengal and Bihar. The Gurjara-Pratiharas were centered in the western and northern parts of the country. The Rashtrakutas were the paramount power in the Deccan. However, the Pallavas were a southern power based in the.

65. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The debate over early medieval state formation involves two prominent models that interpret the role of land grants differently. The feudal model argues that these grants decentralized power and led to a decline in state authority. Conversely, the integrative model suggests that the same practice was a strategic tool for expanding state influence into peripheral regions. Both perspectives contribute to our understanding of.

66. (A) Gangas
The Western Ganga dynasty, which ruled over parts of southern Karnataka, was a major patron of Jaina art and architecture. One of their most enduring legacies is the colossal monolithic statue of Gomateshwara at Shravanabelagola. Commissioned by the Ganga minister Chavundaraya, this sixty-foot-high sculpture is one of the largest of its kind in the world. It stands as a significant symbol of.

67. (B) A sacred place of pilgrimage, often associated with water bodies.
The religious landscape of early medieval India was increasingly defined by the practice of visiting sacred sites known as tirthas. These locations were often situated near rivers, lakes, or oceans, which were considered spiritually purifying. Pilgrimage became a popular way for people to earn religious merit and express their devotion. This development led to the growth of various temple towns and.

68. (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Architectural achievements in early medieval India are closely linked to the patronage of specific ruling dynasties. The Rashtrakutas are famous for carving the massive Kailasa temple at Ellora. The Pallavas constructed the iconic Shore Temple at their port of Mahabalipuram. The Solankis of Gujarat built the elegant Sun Temple at Modhera. Finally, the Somavamsis were responsible for the grand Lingaraja temple in.

69. (C) Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, and Palas
The tripartite struggle was a defining geopolitical feature of North India for over two centuries. Three major powers, the Gurjara-Pratiharas,

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The fiscal system of early medieval kingdoms was highly developed and relied on a wide range of revenue sources. While land revenue remained the primary source of income for the state, numerous other taxes were imposed on various activities. These included professional taxes on artisans and merchants, as well as various local cesses for specific purposes. This complex system reflects the diverse.

123. (D) Powerful merchant guilds.
Economic activity in early medieval South India was heavily influenced by powerful and well-organized commercial associations. Names like Manigramam and Nanadesi refer to major merchant guilds that controlled significant portions of both internal and overseas trade. These organizations possessed their own resources, maintained their own security, and often acted as influential intermediaries between the state and the trading community. Their activities were.

124. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Alberuni was a monumental figure in the history of intellectual exchange between the Islamic world and India. As a polymath accompanying Mahmud of Ghazni, he devoted himself to a systematic study of Indian society and sciences. He mastered Sanskrit to directly access classical texts, providing a detailed and scholarly account in his Kitab-ul-Hind. While he respected Indian achievements, he also observed the.

125. (C) Tondaimandalam
The Pallava dynasty established a strong regional state in the northern parts of modern Tamil Nadu and the adjacent regions of Andhra Pradesh. Their core territory, known as Tondaimandalam, served as the heart of their political and cultural activities. From their capital at Kanchi, they projected power across the south and patronized the development of the Dravidian architectural style. Their strategic.

126. (A) Pallavas
The Pallava dynasty played a pioneering role in the evolution of South Indian temple architecture. During their long reign, they oversaw the significant transition from rock-cut caves and monolithic rathas to free-standing structural temples. This architectural shift allowed for greater complexity and scale in religious buildings. The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram is a prime example of this development, marking the beginning.

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127. (A) Madurai
The city of Madurai has been a central hub of Tamil culture and politics for over two millennia. It served as the capital of the Pandya dynasty, which was one of the three principal lineages of the south. Madurai is also famously associated with the Tamil Sangams, legendary assemblies of poets and scholars who produced the earliest known corpus of Tamil literature. This.

128. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Alberuni work provides a detailed look at the social and political terminology of the early eleventh century. He described the antyaja as those social groups who existed outside the formal Varna system. He noted the high status of Brahmanas within the priestly hierarchy. His own treatise, the Kitab-ul-Hind, remains a primary source for this era. Finally, he arrived in India during the.

129. (A) Intense personal devotion to a deity.
The concept of Bhakti became the defining characteristic of religious expression in early medieval India. It emphasizes a path to the divine through deep, emotional, and personal love for a specific deity, such as Vishnu or Shiva. This approach was promoted by various poet-saints who argued that devotion was accessible to everyone, regardless of social status or ritual knowledge. This development.

130. (A) B.D. Chattopadhyaya and Hermann Kulke
Modern scholarship has developed the integrative model to explain the complexities of state formation in early medieval India. This perspective, most famously championed by historians like B.D. Chattopadhyaya and Hermann Kulke, views the period as one of dynamic political expansion. They argue that regional states were built by integrating local lineages and tribal groups into broader political and social structures. This model.

131. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The early medieval period was a golden age for the development of distinct regional architectural

78. (D) Battle of Chandawar
The Gahadavala kingdom was a major power in the Gangetic plains until the late twelfth century. Its last significant ruler, Jayachandra, faced the advancing forces of Muhammad Ghori in a decisive military encounter. This clash, known as the Battle of Chandawar, resulted in the defeat and death of the Gahadavala king. This victory allowed the Ghurid forces to establish their control over.

79. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Modern historical research offers different frameworks for understanding the nature of the early medieval Indian state. The feudal model highlights the impact of land grants on political decentralization. The segmentary state model describes the Chola empire as a system of ritual sovereignty. The integrative model focuses on the process of absorbing local lineages into broader state structures. These models collectively.

80. (B) Gujarat
The Maitraka dynasty rose to prominence in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat after the decline of the Gupta Empire. They ruled from their capital at Vallabhi, which became a world-renowned center for Buddhist and Brahmanical learning. Their kingdom played a significant role in the maritime and inland trade of western India. The Maitrakas maintained their regional power for several centuries before.

81. (B) It had a succession of several female rulers.
The Bhaumakara dynasty of Odisha is unique in early medieval Indian history due to the significant role played by women in its political administration. For several generations, the kingdom was governed by a series of female sovereigns who held full regal titles and exercised sovereign authority. This pattern of succession suggests a social and political atmosphere that allowed women to participate in the.

82. (A) A stratified group with varying rights, from tenants to permanent holders.
The rural population of early medieval India was not a uniform group but consisted of individuals with diverse levels of land rights. Some peasants held permanent occupancy rights, while others worked as temporary tenants on lands granted to intermediaries. This stratification was further complicated by various obligations to both the state and the local landlords. The peasantry thus existed within a complex.

83. (C) Madhavacharya
Madhavacharya was a prominent thirteenth-century philosopher who introduced the school of Dvaita or dualism within the Vedanta tradition. His philosophy emphasizes a fundamental and eternal distinction between the supreme deity, the individual souls, and the material world. This perspective stood in sharp contrast to the non-dualist teachings of Shankara. Madhavacharya teachings provided a distinct theological basis for the Bhakti movement, especially.

84. (D) Merchant guilds like Manigramam were active in internal and overseas trade.
Trade in early medieval India was facilitated by powerful and well-organized commercial organizations known as merchant guilds. Groups like the Manigramam and the Ayyavole operated across regional boundaries and even engaged in maritime ventures. These guilds possessed significant economic resources and often received special privileges from the state. They played a vital role in connecting local production centers with both.

85. (C) Corinthian style
Early medieval India saw the development of three major regional styles of temple architecture that reflected local artistic sensibilities. The Nagara style was characteristic of North India, while the Dravida style was dominant in the South. The Vesara style emerged as a hybrid form in the Deccan region. The Corinthian style, however, is a classical Greek architectural order and was not.

86. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The widespread issuance of land grants to religious institutions and Brahmanas was a central feature of early medieval political economy. These grants, known as brahmadeyas and devadanas, served several strategic purposes beyond religious merit. They acted as a means to expand agricultural production into uncultivated areas and established a presence for state ideology in peripheral regions. This system helped integrate.

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the Palas, and the Rashtrakutas, competed for control over the city of Kannauj. This city was seen as a symbol of imperial sovereignty and a gateway to the resources of the Gangetic plains. The constant warfare among these three empires significantly shaped.

70. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The early medieval period was a crucial era for the maturation of various regional languages across the Indian subcontinent. This growth was directly supported by regional dynasties that used these languages in their courts and inscriptions. Furthermore, the Bhakti movement played a vital role by producing a vast body of devotional literature in the vernacular. By using the language of the people, these.

71. (D) A Hindu monastic establishment, often associated with a particular sect and serving as an educational center.
Mathas emerged as vital religious and social institutions during the early medieval period, particularly within the Saiva and Vaisnava traditions. These monastic centers provided residential space for monks and served as important hubs for religious education and philosophical debate. Often supported by royal land grants, they played a significant role in the institutionalization of the Bhakti movement. They also functioned as.

72. (C) 1, 3 and 4
The social condition of women in the early medieval period was marked by both restrictive practices and notable exceptions. Inscriptional evidence and literary works from this time mention the occurrence of Sati in certain contexts. Property rights remained generally limited to personal belongings, although some women exercised significant political power. Queens are recorded as ruling either as independent sovereigns or as regents for their.

73. (C) Colleges or centers of higher learning, especially for Brahmanas.
Educational institutions in the Pallava kingdom were often organized as ghatikas, which served as prestigious centers for advanced learning. These institutions were primarily dedicated to the study of the Vedas and other classical Sanskrit texts. They were usually located in prominent religious or administrative centers and received support from the state. The ghatikas played a crucial role in maintaining the intellectual.

74. (A) The region of modern Kerala and western Tamil Nadu.
The Ceras were one of the three principal lineages that dominated the politics of ancient and early medieval South India. Their primary territory encompassed the western coast of the peninsula, including modern-day Kerala and the neighboring parts of Tamil Nadu. They were strategically positioned to control the lucrative maritime trade with the western world. Their rule was characterized by a distinct.

75. (D) To acquire the immense wealth of India, particularly from its temples.
Mahmud of Ghazni conducted numerous military campaigns into northern India during the early eleventh century. His primary motivation was the acquisition of the vast wealth stored in prosperous Indian cities and religious centers. These raids were intended to finance his imperial ambitions in Central Asia. While these invasions caused widespread disruption, they did not lead to the establishment of a permanent administrative system.

76. (A) Anhilwara (Patan)
The Chalukyas of Gujarat, also known as the Solankis, established a powerful regional state that flourished from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. Their political operations were centered at their capital city, Anhilwara, which is identified with modern-day Patan. This city grew into a major hub of commerce and culture under their patronage. Its strategic location allowed the Solankis to control.

77. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Chola Empire was characterized by a sophisticated administrative structure that balanced central authority with local self-governance. At the imperial level, the state maintained a powerful navy and a disciplined standing army to project its power. Simultaneously, the empire granted a high degree of autonomy to village assemblies. These local bodies, known as sabhas and urs, were responsible for managing.

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96. (B) Samanta
The political organization of early medieval India was characterized by a hierarchical system involving various levels of authority. The term samanta was used to describe a subordinate ruler or a feudatory chief who owed allegiance to a paramount king. These individuals held significant power in their local regions and provided military and administrative support to their overlords. The samanta system was.

97. (B) Different entities, from king to cultivator, held different types of rights over the same plot of land.
The early medieval agrarian structure was defined by a complex layering of land rights rather than simple ownership. Multiple social groups could hold different claims on the same piece of land simultaneously. For example, a king might hold the right to collect revenue, an intermediary could have administrative control, and the peasant possessed the right to cultivate the soil. This system.

98. (A) 3, 2, 1, 4
The political landscape of South India evolved through the successive rise of several major empires over nearly a millennium. The Pandyas established an early regional empire, followed by the dominance of the Pallavas of Kanchi. The Cholas of Thanjavur later created a vast imperial structure that controlled much of the south. Finally, the Hoysalas of Dorasamudra emerged as a significant power in.

99. (C) The large-scale practice of making land grants with fiscal and administrative rights.
Changes in the agricultural production relations of the early medieval period were primarily driven by the systemic issuance of land grants. By transferring tax collection and judicial rights to Brahmanas and secular officials, the state created a new layer of landed intermediaries. This development altered the direct relationship between the monarch and the peasantry. It led to a more complex social.

100. (D) The currency system was robust and uniform across India, facilitating easy exchange.
Trade and urban life in early medieval India underwent significant changes, including the emergence of powerful merchant guilds like the Ayyavole. While important ports and commercial centers continued to function, the overall currency system became increasingly fragmented. Unlike the previous era, there was no single, uniform currency used across the entire subcontinent. Instead, various regional dynasties issued their own coins.

101. (B) Shiva and Vishnu respectively
The Tamil Bhakti movement was a transformative religious force led by two distinct groups of poet-saints. The Nayanars were devoted to the deity Shiva and composed hymns that emphasized the personal and emotional aspects of their faith. Simultaneously, the Alvars expressed their intense devotion to Vishnu through their spiritual poetry. Together, these two groups revolutionized the religious landscape of South India.

102. (C) Holding regular, popular elections to seek a mandate from the people.
Rulers in early medieval India utilized various traditional methods to establish the legitimacy of their authority. They frequently claimed divine origins and performed elaborate Vedic sacrifices to signal their sovereign status. The construction of massive temples also served to link the monarch with the divine power. However, the modern concept of holding popular elections was completely absent from the political practices.

103. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The social structure during the early medieval period became increasingly complex due to the multiplication of caste identities. This proliferation was driven by the absorption of various tribal groups into the agrarian society and the formation of new professional jatis. At the same time, the boundaries between different social groups became more rigid. This period also saw the concept of ritual.

104. (A) A village or land granted tax-free to Brahmanas.
An agrahara was a specific type of land grant that played a central role in the social and intellectual life of early medieval India. These tax-free settlements were established for Brahmanas to support their religious and educational activities. Agraharas often functioned as major centers for Sanskrit learning and were instrumental in the

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140. (A) The absorption of tribal groups and the formation of new occupational guilds.
The proliferation of numerous jatis was a major social development in early medieval India, reflecting changes in the economy and settlement patterns. As the agrarian frontier expanded, many tribal communities were integrated into the broader Varna system as distinct castes. Simultaneously, the growth of specialized crafts and trade led to the formation of professional guilds that eventually became endogamous groups. These.

141. (D) 2, 3, 1, 4
The tripartite struggle for Kannauj involved a complex series of military campaigns among the Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas. Initially, the Pratihara king Vatsaraja defeated the Pala monarch Dharmapala. However, the Rashtrakuta king Dhruva then successfully challenged both powers. Following this, Dharmapala managed to establish temporary control over the city. Finally, the Pratiharas under Nagabhata II captured Kannauj and made it their.

142. (B) Halebidu
The Hoysala dynasty established a powerful regional state in the southern Deccan, which is now part of the modern state of Karnataka. Their primary capital city was Dorasamudra, which served as the administrative and cultural heart of the kingdom. This historic site is identified with the modern town of Halebidu. The city is famous for its magnificent temples, which showcase the.

143. (A) An insular society, conscious of its cultural superiority and with a rigid caste system.
Alberuni account of Indian society in the early eleventh century provides a detailed and often critical perspective. He observed that the contemporary population was highly conscious of its own cultural and intellectual achievements, often viewing itself as superior to others. He also documented a society with clearly defined social boundaries and a rigid caste hierarchy. This insularity, according to his observations, made.

144. (D) The Guptas
The Maitraka dynasty established a strong regional state in Gujarat as the centralized authority of the Gupta Empire began to weaken. Initially serving as local military commanders or feudatories under the Guptas, they gradually asserted their independence. Their capital city, Vallabhi, eventually grew into a major political and intellectual center of Western India. The transition from Gupta subordinates to sovereign rulers was.

145. (A) Pilgrimage to sacred sites
The religious practices of early medieval India saw a significant increase in the importance of pilgrimage, known as tirtha. This period witnessed the identification and popularization of numerous sacred sites associated with major deities or holy rivers. Visiting these locations became a central ritual for earning religious merit and expressing personal devotion. The growth of the tirtha tradition contributed to the.

146. (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
Modern historical research has shown that the early medieval economy was more complex than previously thought, involving both agriculture and trade. While land grants emphasized the agrarian sector, there is clear evidence of active merchant guilds and flourishing port towns. The existence of various regional currencies further points to a vibrant system of commercial exchange. Therefore, the period was not marked by.

147. (C) Kavirajamarga
The Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I was a notable monarch who was deeply interested in literature and philosophy. He is famously associated with the Kavirajamarga, which is the earliest surviving work on poetics and grammar in the Kannada language. Whether he authored it himself or patronized its creation, the work reflects the high level of intellectual activity in the Rashtrakuta court. It remains.

148. (C) 1, 2 and 5
Early medieval India was defined by several major political and cultural trends that reshaped the subcontinent. Rulers systematically utilized grand titles and mythical genealogies to establish the legitimacy of their authority. The issuance of land grants became a fundamental instrument for political consolidation and agricultural expansion. Culturally, the Bhakti movement

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literature and scientific scholarship, patronizing figures like the mathematician Bhaskaracharya. Although they.

114. (A) A hierarchical and decentralized political formation.
The political structure of early medieval India is frequently conceptualized as a samanta-chakra, or a circle of subordinate rulers. This model suggests a decentralized system where a paramount king exercised authority over a network of feudatory chiefs. These samantas held significant autonomy in their own regions but provided military support and tribute to their overlord. This arrangement highlights the layered and hierarchical.

115. (C) The establishment of Indianized states and cultural influence through trade and religious missions.
The spread of Indian influence in Southeast Asia during the early medieval period is often described as a process of cultural colonization. This was not a military expansion but rather a peaceful transmission of religious ideas, artistic styles, and administrative concepts. Through maritime trade and the work of Buddhist and Hindu missions, Indian culture was integrated into local societies. This resulted in the.

116. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Historians use the term early medieval to define the period between the fall of the classical empires and the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. This era is characterized by the emergence of numerous regional states that developed distinct political and cultural identities. The period was not a time of stagnant decay but rather a dynamic phase of transition and regional formation. These developments.

117. (C) A state characterized by land grants leading to political fragmentation and subjection of peasantry.
The feudal model offers a specific interpretation of the political and economic changes that occurred in early medieval India. It posits that the systematic issuance of land grants decentralized state authority by creating a powerful class of landed intermediaries. This process led to the fragmentation of imperial power and the increased dependence of the peasantry on local lords. This model emphasizes a shift.

118. (D) Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
Rudramadevi was one of the most remarkable rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty, governing her kingdom with great skill and military success. She ruled over a vast territory in the eastern Deccan, which corresponds to the modern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Her reign is notable for the construction of significant irrigation works and grand temples. She successfully defended her kingdom against.

119. (B) Brahmanical ritualism, Buddhism, and Jainism
The Tamil Bhakti movement emerged as a popular religious force that challenged the dominant institutionalized faiths of South India. By emphasizing emotional and personal devotion to a deity, the Alvars and Nayanars offered an alternative to the complex rituals of the Brahmanas. Simultaneously, the movement successfully countered the influence of Buddhism and Jainism, which had previously held significant sway in the region.

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120. (A) Senas
The political geography of early medieval India saw the rise of major powers in different regional zones. The Rashtrakutas and the Yadavas were paramount powers in the Deccan plateau. The Gangas also held significant territory in the southern parts of the Deccan. However, the Sena dynasty was based in the eastern region of Bengal. They replaced the Palas and never established a.

121. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The Gurjara-Pratiharas were a vital force in North Indian politics, acting as a successful barrier against early Arab military advances from the west. Their military strength ensured the protection of the Indian heartland for several centuries. While they were a dominant power in the North, their capital was located at Kanyakubja, or Kannauj, rather than the ancient city of Pataliputra. Their control.

122. (A) A multiplicity of taxes, including land revenue, professional taxes, and various cesses.

87. (D) The Kailasa temple at Ellora
The Rashtrakuta dynasty left an indelible mark on Indian art through their patronage of massive rock-cut structures. King Krishna I is credited with commissioned the astounding Kailasa temple at Ellora, which is carved from a single piece of living rock. This architectural marvel replicates a structural temple on a colossal scale, complete with intricate sculptures and massive pillars. It stands.

88. (A) Mahmud of Ghazni
Alberuni was a versatile scholar from Central Asia who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni on his expeditions to India. During his stay, he studied Sanskrit and interacted with local scholars to gain a deep understanding of Indian sciences and culture. His resulting work, the Kitab-ul-Hind, provides an invaluable contemporary account of Indian society in the early eleventh century. It remains a.

89. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Several regional dynasties rose to prominence in the Deccan and eastern India during the later early medieval period. The Kakatiyas were led by powerful rulers like Ganapati Deva in the Andhra region. Vishnuvardhana was the first great monarch of the Hoysala dynasty in Karnataka. The Yadavas reached their peak under Ramachandra, while Lakshmana Sena was a significant king of the.

90. (A) Social change involving the formation of Jatis due to economic factors.
The proliferation of numerous jatis during the early medieval period was a result of dynamic social and economic processes. As tribal communities were absorbed into the agrarian economy, they were often integrated as distinct caste groups. Simultaneously, the emergence of new occupational specializations led to the formation of professional guilds that eventually became endogamous castes. This development reflects the.

91. (D) Kamarupa (Assam)
The Varman dynasty was the first major ruling house of the ancient kingdom of Kamarupa, located in the Brahmaputra valley. They played a crucial role in the early history of Assam, establishing a stable political structure in the region. The dynasty maintained close cultural and diplomatic ties with other major Indian kingdoms of the time. Their reign marked the beginning of documented.

92. (B) Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
The Somavamsi dynasty, which ruled parts of Odisha, was known for its deep commitment to Saivism and its prolific building activities. Their most famous contribution to Indian architecture is the Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar. This temple represents the culmination of the Kalinga style, characterized by its massive shikhara and elaborate stone carvings. It remains one of the most important and.

93. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The Kalacuri-Chedis were a significant political power in central India, with their primary influence concentrated in the Narmada river valley. They maintained an independent status and frequently contested territory with major contemporary powers. While they faced pressure from neighboring dynasties, they were not completely annexed by the Gurjara-Pratiharas. Their kingdom persisted for several centuries, contributing to the unique cultural and political.

94. (D) To act as an international center for advanced Buddhist studies.
Mahaviharas like Nalanda and Vikramshila were prestigious monastic universities that served as global centers of learning during the early medieval period. They attracted thousands of students and scholars from across Asia who came to study Buddhist philosophy, logic, and other subjects. Supported by royal land grants, these institutions maintained extensive libraries and fostered a vibrant intellectual environment. They played a vital.

95. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
The Paramara dynasty was a significant power in Central India, ruling the fertile Malwa region from their capital at Dhara. Their most illustrious monarch, Raja Bhoja, was a celebrated warrior and a renowned scholar who patronized the arts. The dynasty successfully maintained its regional influence for several centuries against various rivals. However, they were eventually overwhelmed and their territories were absorbed.

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styles across the Indian subcontinent. Ruling dynasties provided the vast resources and political stability necessary for the construction of grand religious monuments. These patrons supported the growth of specialized artistic schools, leading to the clear differentiation between the Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara styles. Each style reflected.

132. (D) Gahadavalas
The political landscape of the Deccan plateau was dominated by several powerful regional dynasties from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. The Kakatiyas, Hoysalas, and Yadavas were the three most prominent powers in this region, each leaving a significant cultural and architectural legacy. In contrast, the Gahadavalas were a North Indian power centered in the Gangetic plains, particularly around the city of Kannauj.

133. (B) The local village assemblies (Sabha and Ur)
Water management was a vital task in the agrarian economy of the Chola Empire, essential for maintaining agricultural productivity. The responsibility for constructing and maintaining irrigation systems like tanks and canals was primarily handled at the local level. Village assemblies, known as the sabha and the ur, managed these resources to ensure a steady water supply for their communities. This decentralized.

134. (D) Women were universally granted the right to inherit paternal landed property equally with their brothers.
Legal and social status for women in early medieval India was characterized by specific property rights and increasing social restrictions. The concept of stridhana allowed women to own personal property such as gifts and jewelry. Additionally, royal women are recorded as making significant land grants to religious institutions. However, women did not possess a universal or equal right to inherit ancestral.

135. (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
The transition from the Pala to the Sena dynasty in Bengal brought about a significant shift in the region religious landscape. The Palas were famous for their extensive patronage of Buddhism, which flourished under their rule. However, they were not persecutors of Saivism. The subsequent Sena dynasty championed orthodox Brahmanical traditions and were strong supporters of Vaisnavism. This period saw a decline in.

136. (A) The Paramaras
The Kalacuris of Tripuri and the Paramaras of Malwa were two significant powers in central India during the early medieval period. They frequently engaged in a prolonged military rivalry for dominance over the fertile and strategic territories between their respective kingdoms. This persistent conflict significantly impacted the political stability of the region and influenced the fortunes of both dynasties. Their rivalry is.

137. (C) Segmentary Model
The segmentary state model was famously applied to the Chola kingdom to describe its complex political structure. This theory suggests that the state was composed of multiple autonomous segments where the king exercised direct administrative control only in a core zone. Beyond this center, the monarch power was primarily ritual and symbolic. This model emphasizes the high degree of local autonomy maintained.

138. (A) 1 and 4 only
Education in early medieval India was primarily organized through religious and community institutions that received state and private support. Agraharas were specialized villages granted to Brahmanas that served as important centers for Sanskrit scholarship. Additionally, mathas associated with Saiva and Vaisnava monastic traditions functioned as significant educational centers. While Mahaviharas existed, they were primarily dedicated to Buddhist studies rather than Vedic.

139. (D) Pallavas
The architectural landscape of Mahabalipuram is defined by the extraordinary monolithic temples known as the Rathas. These structures were carved directly from large outcrops of rock during the seventh century under the patronage of the Pallava dynasty. Each ratha represents a different architectural style, providing a valuable record of early Dravidian building forms. These monolithic marvels stand as a testament to the.

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spread of Brahmanical culture and state ideology into new.

105. (A) 1 and 4 only
Early medieval society was organized around the complex interaction between the traditional Varna framework and the emerging reality of Jati groups. While the four-fold division remained the theoretical ideal, individual status was increasingly defined by specific occupational castes. This social system also evolved by absorbing various tribal communities, usually placing them at the lower levels of the hierarchy. Despite these.

106. (A) Banavasi
The Kadamba dynasty was one of the earliest indigenous kingdoms to rule over the region of modern Karnataka. Founded by Mayurasharman in the fourth century, the dynasty established its political center at Banavasi. This city served as a major administrative and cultural hub for several centuries. The Kadambas played a vital role in laying the foundation for the distinct political and.

107. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The political history of South India during the seventh and eighth centuries was defined by the intense rivalry between the Chalukyas of Badami and the Pallavas of Kanchi. These two powers frequently engaged in military campaigns against each other capitals. Pulakeshin II famously attacked the Pallava heartland, while Narasimhavarman I later retaliated by sacking the Chalukyan capital of Vatapi. This persistent conflict.

108. (B) The Pala Kingdom
Arab travelers and geographers provided valuable accounts of the major powers in early medieval India. Suleiman, in the ninth century, referred to the Pala kingdom of Bengal as Ruhma. He was particularly impressed by the dynasty military strength and their massive contingent of war elephants. His descriptions highlight the Pala empire as one of the most significant and powerful states in the.

109. (D) A hybrid style that combined features of both the Nagara and Dravida styles, found mainly in the Deccan.
The architectural landscape of early medieval India included a unique regional style known as the Vesara style. This form of temple construction emerged in the Deccan region, particularly under the patronage of the Chalukyas. It represents a creative blend of elements from the North Indian Nagara style and the South Indian Dravida style. This hybrid architecture resulted in distinctively shaped shikharas.

110. (C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Literature and historical records from the early medieval period were often produced under the patronage of regional monarchs. Bilhana wrote a celebrated biography of his patron, the Chalukya king Vikramaditya VI. Alberuni composed a detailed study of Indian culture and society following his travels. Jayadeva, associated with the Sena court, wrote the famous Gitagovinda. Finally, Kalhana authored the Rajatarangini, a significant.

111. (A) Karnataka (Deccan)
The Sena dynasty, which eventually supplanted the Palas in Bengal, had its origins in the Deccan region. They initially migrated to the east and established themselves as local chiefs before rising to imperial power. Their southern ancestry influenced their religious and social policies, as they became staunch patrons of orthodox Brahmanical traditions. This transition marked a significant change in the political and.

112. (A) Land gifted to a temple for its maintenance.
Devadana was a specialized category of land grant that significantly impacted the religious and economic landscape of early medieval India. These grants involved the transfer of land or entire villages to a specific temple to ensure its perpetual maintenance and ritual services. This practice led to temples becoming major landowners and economic centers within their regions. Such grants were seen as a.

113. (A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
The Yadava dynasty was a major power in the western Deccan, establishing its independence from the Western Chalukyas in the late twelfth century. They ruled from their strategic capital at Devagiri, which later became a major administrative center for the Delhi Sultanate. Their court was a vibrant center for Marathi

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introduced a more emotional and personal approach to worship. These developments.

149. (C) Jainism
The Chalukyas of Gujarat, or Solankis, were prolific builders and generous patrons of multiple religious traditions. While they supported the construction of magnificent Brahmanical temples, they also provided extensive patronage to the Jaina community. Their reign saw the creation of world-famous Jaina architectural marvels, such as the temples at Mount Abu. This religious pluralism was a characteristic feature of the political and.

150. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Chola state reached the height of its power during the eleventh century, developing a formidable maritime capability. Under Rajaraja I and Rajendra I, the empire undertook successful naval expeditions to project its influence overseas. These campaigns were strategically aimed at securing control over the vital maritime trade routes between India, Southeast Asia, and China. The famous naval attack on the Srivijaya.

151. (B) Gahadavala
The Gahadavala dynasty rose to power in the late eleventh century, establishing a significant kingdom in the Gangetic heartland. Founded by Chandradeva, the dynasty chose the historic city of Kanyakubja, or Kannauj, as its primary capital. They successfully maintained order in North India for over a century before being challenged by the Ghurid invasions. Their rule is marked by the patronage of.

152. (A) The composition of popular religious literature (Bhakti) and royal patronage.
The development of modern regional languages in India received a massive boost during the early medieval period. Regional monarchs often patronized the use of the vernacular in their courts and administrative records, giving these languages official status. Simultaneously, the Bhakti saints composed a vast body of devotional poetry and songs in local tongues. This made religious and literary culture accessible to the.

153. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The political landscape of early medieval India was composed of several prominent regional kingdoms, each centered in a specific geographical area. The Varmans established their power in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. The Maitrakas ruled from their base in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The Somavamsis were a dominant force in Odisha, while the Hoysalas created a significant empire in southern.

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154. (A) They were often assimilated at the lower rungs of the Varna hierarchy, typically as Shudras, as they adopted agriculture.
The social structure of early medieval India evolved by systematically integrating various tribal communities into the broader agrarian society. As these groups transitioned to settled farming, they were absorbed into the Varna order, most frequently at the level of Shudras. This process allowed the state to expand its tax base while providing a social place for newly integrated populations. It reflects.

155. (D) Eastern Gangas
The architectural heritage of Odisha reached its magnificent peak with the construction of several monumental temples along the coast. One of the most spectacular is the Sun Temple at Konark, designed in the shape of a colossal celestial chariot. This iconic structure was commissioned by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the thirteenth century. It stands as a pinnacle of.

156. (B) A feudatory or subordinate ruler
The political organization of early medieval India was built upon a hierarchical structure known as the samanta system. The term samanta referred to a subordinate chief or a regional ruler who acknowledged the suzerainty of a more powerful monarch. These feudatories played a vital role in the imperial administration, providing military contingents and maintaining local order. The relationship between the king and.

157. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Ramanujacharya was a seminal figure who provided an intellectual and theological foundation for the Vaisnava Bhakti movement. His philosophy of Vishishtadvaita argued that the individual soul and the material world are real

194. (A) The Delhi Sultanate
The Yadava dynasty was a dominant regional power in the western Deccan, ruling from their impressive capital at Devagiri. They were instrumental in the development of Marathi culture and literature. However, their kingdom faced repeated invasions from the expanding forces of the Delhi Sultanate during the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. These military campaigns eventually led to the subjugation.

195. (C) He noted the insularity of the Brahmanas and the rigidity of the caste system.
Alberuni provided a detailed and often critical account of Indian society in the early eleventh century. He observed that the contemporary population, particularly the intellectual elite, was highly insular and possessed a strong sense of cultural superiority. He also documented the increasing rigidity of the caste system and the clear social boundaries between different groups. His observations offer an invaluable external.

196. (D) Seeking a popular vote of confidence from the general population.
Legitimation of kingship in early medieval India relied on traditional and symbolic methods rather than modern democratic processes. Rulers frequently claimed divine origins and used elaborate Vedic rituals to signal their sovereign status. The construction of grand temples and the fabrication of ancient genealogies also served to bolster their authority. However, the concept of seeking a popular mandate through.

197. (C) Patan
The Chalukyas of Gujarat, frequently referred to as the Solankis, were a major regional power from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. Their strategic capital was located at the prosperous city of Anhilwara, which corresponds to the modern town of Patan. Under Solanki patronage, this city became a prominent center for trade and intellectual activity. Its history is still visible.

198. (B) The Tripuri region (Central India)
The Kalacuri-Chedi dynasty was an important political force in central India during the early medieval period. They established their power in the region around Tripuri, which is located near the modern city of Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. From this central base, they contested territory with major contemporary powers like the Paramaras and the Pratiharas. Their capital served as a flourishing hub.

199. (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
The early medieval period in India was a time of significant social and economic transformation rather than stagnant stability. This era witnessed several major changes, including the expansion of the agrarian frontier and the proliferation of new caste groups known as jatis. The systematic issuance of land grants also reshaped the relationship between the state and the peasantry. These developments highlight.

200. (A) Gift-giving and pilgrimage
The religious and social practices of early medieval India were increasingly defined by the two concepts of dana and tirtha. Dana refers to the ritual practice of making significant gifts, often land or wealth, to Brahmanas and religious institutions. Tirtha describes the growing importance of visiting sacred sites as a means of earning spiritual merit. Together, these practices influenced the.

201. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Modern scholarship has developed various models to understand the nature of the early medieval state and society. R.S. Sharma is famously associated with the feudal model, while Burton Stein applied the segmentary state theory to South India. B.D. Chattopadhyaya has focused on the integrative process of state formation. Additionally, Alberuni provides an invaluable external account of Indian society in.

202. (A) Southern Karnataka (Gangavadi)
The Western Ganga dynasty was a long-lived and influential regional power based in the southern parts of modern Karnataka. Their territory, often referred to as Gangavadi, served as a core region for their political and cultural activities. They were notable for their consistent patronage of Jaina institutions and their contributions to regional art. One of their most famous legacies is.

203. (D) A hierarchy of overlapping rights on land was held by different social groups.

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woman personal property, but they generally excluded her from inheriting ancestral landed property. This lack of control over immovable resources limited the economic independence of most women. While royal women sometimes made land grants, this.

167. (D) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism
The Vikramshila Mahavihara was established by the Pala king Dharmapala as a major institution for higher learning. It became one of the most important centers for the study of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism, attracting students from across the world. The university was supported by extensive royal grants and maintained a high level of academic rigor. It played a crucial role in.

168. (A) Andhra Pradesh
The Eastern Chalukyas emerged as a distinct regional power after the conquest of the coastal Andhra region by the Western Chalukyas of Badami. They established their independent political base at Vengi, located in the fertile plains between the Godavari and Krishna rivers. This area is situated within the modern state of Andhra Pradesh. Their kingdom played a significant role in the.

169. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
The major regional dynasties of early medieval North and Central India each operated from specific political centers. The Gurjara-Pratiharas were eventually centered at the historic city of Kannauj. The Paramaras ruled the Malwa region from their capital at Dhara. The Gahadavalas established their power in the Kanyakubja region, while the Kalacuri-Chedis were based at Tripuri. These capitals served as hubs of.

170. (A) State formation from below where local lineages are integrated into the state.
The integrative model offers a dynamic view of how regional states were formed during the early medieval period. This perspective argues that state-building was a process of absorbing various local and tribal lineages into a broader political and social framework. This was achieved through the expansion of agriculture, the issuance of land grants, and the spread of state-sponsored religious ideologies. This model.

171. (A) Shiva
The Nayanars were a group of sixty-three poet-saints who were pivotal in the development of the Saiva Bhakti movement in South India. They came from diverse social backgrounds and expressed their intense personal devotion to the deity Shiva through Tamil hymns. Their compositions were eventually compiled into the Tirumurai, which remains a central sacred text of Tamil Saivism. Their work helped.

172. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Chalukyas of Gujarat, frequently referred to as the Solankis, were a dominant regional power from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. They were renowned for their significant contributions to Indian architecture and their generous patronage of multiple religious traditions. Under their rule, several spectacular religious monuments were constructed, including the elegant Sun Temple at Modhera and the famous Jaina temples.

173. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Trade and urbanization in early medieval India underwent a complex series of transformations. While there was a documented decline in some old urban centers, new market towns known as mandapikas gradually emerged. Powerful merchant guilds like the Ayyavole played a crucial role in managing both internal and overseas commerce. Additionally, coastal port cities continued to thrive, connecting India with international maritime.

174. (D) Buddhism
The Pala dynasty of Bengal and Bihar was famous for its consistent and extensive support of Buddhist institutions. During their long reign, they provided royal patronage to several major monastic universities, ensuring that the region remained a global hub for Buddhist learning. This period saw the flourishing of Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions, which influenced cultures across Asia. The Pala commitment to.

175. (A) Political legitimation
Many ruling dynasties in early medieval India utilized the strategy of claiming prestigious and ancient lineages to bolster their authority. By connecting themselves to legendary solar or lunar ancestors, monarchs sought to establish their rightful place within the traditional social and

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212. (D) A highly centralized pan-Indian empire ruling from Pataliputra
The early medieval period in India was defined by several major political and cultural shifts away from the previous imperial era. It was characterized by the emergence of numerous regional kingdoms and the widespread practice of issuing land grants. This era also witnessed the flourishing of regional languages and distinct architectural styles. However, the period was not marked by the existence.

213. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Rashtrakutas were the paramount power in the Deccan during the eighth and ninth centuries, frequently projecting their influence far beyond their home territory. They were a key participant in the tripartite struggle and often launched successful military campaigns into North India. The brief capture of the symbolic city of Kannauj by King Indra III demonstrated their extraordinary military capability and.

214. (B) An endogamous social group often linked to a specific occupation.
In the social structure of early medieval India, the term Jati refers to the practical reality of social organization. Unlike the theoretical four-fold Varna division, Jatis were localized, endogamous groups that were frequently associated with a specific craft or professional specialization. The proliferation of Jatis was a result of various social and economic processes, including the absorption of tribal communities.

215. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 5
The social condition of women in the early medieval period was marked by a combination of restrictive norms and significant regional variations. While the practice of Sati is mentioned in some sources and formal education was generally limited, there were notable exceptions. The concept of stridhana provided some personal property rights, and a few women, like Rudramadevi, attained the highest levels.

216. (A) Rock-cut and structural stone temples (Dravidian style)
The Pallava dynasty played a pivotal role in the early development of South Indian temple architecture. During their long reign, they oversaw the transition from rock-cut cave temples and monolithic rathas to the construction of free-standing structural stone buildings. This evolution laid the foundation for the distinct Dravidian style that would characterize southern temples for centuries. Their architectural achievements are most.

217. (D) The Ghurids (Muhammad Ghori)
The Gahadavala dynasty established a strong regional state in the Gangetic heartland during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. They ruled from the historic city of Kannauj, serving as a major power in North India. However, their kingdom was eventually shattered by the invading forces of the Ghurid Empire. The defeat of King Jayachandra in 1194 AD by Muhammad Ghori marked the.

218. (A) A flourishing coastal and overseas trade, especially with Southeast Asia and the Arab world.
Trade in early medieval India was characterized by vibrant commercial connections that linked the subcontinent with distant regions. While internal trade patterns changed, maritime commerce flourished on both the eastern and western coasts. Indian merchants and powerful guilds played a crucial role in maintaining trade routes to Southeast Asia and the Arab world. This period saw the exchange of textiles, spices, and.

219. (D) Shankara
Shankara was a monumental philosopher who lived during the eighth century and fundamentally reshaped the intellectual landscape of India. He is most famously associated with the development of the Advaita Vedanta school, which advocates the philosophy of non-dualism. According to his teachings, the individual soul is ultimately identical to the supreme reality, and the perceived diversity of the world is an.

220. (A) Recognition as 'Jatis' within the broad Shudra varna.
The expansion of the agrarian frontier during the early medieval period led to the systematic integration of various tribal communities into the broader Varna order. As these groups transitioned to settled farming and adopted many aspects of Brahmanical culture, they were often absorbed as new occupational Jatis. Within the

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Indian historical context. They maintained diplomatic relations.

185. (B) Odisha
The political history of Odisha during the early medieval period was defined by the successive rule of several influential dynasties. The Bhaumakaras established a strong regional presence and were notable for having several female sovereigns. They were eventually succeeded by the Somavamsis, who further unified the region and were great patrons of architecture. Together, these two dynasties shaped the cultural and.

186. (A) Later Western Chalukyas
The Chalukyas of Kalyani are frequently referred to as the Later Western Chalukyas to distinguish them from the earlier branch based at Badami. They re-established Chalukyan power in the western Deccan in the late tenth century, following the decline of the Rashtrakuta Empire. From their capital at Kalyani, they became a major regional force, known for their artistic patronage and their.

187. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Modern historical theories offer different ways to interpret the nature of early medieval Indian states. The feudal model argues that the widespread issuance of land grants led to political decentralization and the rise of local lords. In contrast, the segmentary model suggests that while the king held symbolic sovereignty, direct administrative control was concentrated in the core regions. This model was.

188. (B) Bhoja
Raja Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty is celebrated as one of the most versatile monarchs in Indian history. Beyond his military successes, he was a prolific scholar and a generous patron of the arts and sciences. He is credited with writing several significant works on diverse subjects, including medicine, grammar, and architectural theory. His capital, Dhara, became a prestigious center.

189. (D) All of the above
The religious landscape of early medieval India was defined by several major interconnected developments. Vaisnavism and Saivism rose to prominence as dominant sects, supported by royal patronage and the institutionalization of the temple. The Bhakti movement, spearheaded by the Alvars and Nayanars, introduced a more personal and emotional approach to worship. Simultaneously, profound philosophical systems were developed by thinkers like.

190. (D) Shreni or Puga
Economic and professional activities in early medieval India were systematically organized through collective bodies known as shrenis or pugas. These organizations functioned as guilds for various groups of merchants and skilled artisans. They were responsible for regulating production standards, managing mutual resources, and representing the interests of their members within the local and regional administration. These guilds played a.

191. (A) Kerala
The Ceras were one of the three principal lineages that shaped the early history of the southern peninsula. Their primary territory was located on the western coast of India, corresponding largely to the modern state of Kerala and parts of western Tamil Nadu. Strategically positioned to control maritime trade routes, they prospered from international commerce. Their rule is characterized by a.

192. (B) Creation of a class of intermediaries with fiscal and administrative rights over the land.
The systematic practice of issuing land grants to religious and secular individuals had a profound impact on the early medieval social structure. By transferring the state right to collect revenue and manage local affairs, these grants created a new layer of landed intermediaries. This development placed a powerful group between the monarch and the actual tillers of the soil. It led.

193. (B) Warangal
The Kakatiya dynasty established its sovereign rule in the eastern Deccan, significantly contributing to the regional culture and economy. They were renowned for their advanced irrigation systems and magnificent temples. Their political operations were centered at their fortified capital city, Warangal, also known as Orugallu. This city served as a major administrative and cultural hub until the dynasty was overwhelmed by.

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managed a vast territory and frequently engaged in diplomatic and military interactions with neighboring powers. Tripuri grew into a vibrant center for culture.

230. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The cultural and intellectual history of early medieval India is marked by several significant texts and monuments associated with major patrons. The Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I is credited with co-authoring the Kavirajamarga. The Solankis of Gujarat commissioned the elegant Sun Temple at Modhera. Alberuni provided an invaluable contemporary account in his Kitab-ul-Hind, while Rajendra Chola I built the grand Gangaikondacholapuram temple to.

231. (D) The patronage from regional courts and the use of vernaculars by Bhakti saints.
The maturation of modern regional languages in India was driven by several interconnected political and religious factors. Regional monarchs increasingly patronized the use of local vernaculars in their courts and in official inscriptions. At the same time, the popular Bhakti movement produced a vast body of devotional literature in the language of the common people. These two processes together helped to.

232. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The temple was the central institution of early medieval South India, performing multiple roles beyond its primary religious function. These massive complexes were major landowners and managed large agricultural estates that supported thousands of employees. Temples also served as centers for education, repositories of wealth, and patrons of various arts and sciences. Their economic and social influence made them vital components.

233. (C) The Maitrakas
The Maitraka dynasty established a powerful regional state in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat following the decline of Gupta authority. They ruled from their capital city of Vallabhi, which became one of the most prestigious centers of learning in the early medieval world. This city was particularly famous for its major Buddhist university, which attracted scholars from across the country and abroad.

234. (A) Aurangabad
The Yadava dynasty was a dominant regional power in the western Deccan, ruling from their strategic and impressively fortified capital at Devagiri. This historic site is located in the modern state of Maharashtra, near the city of Aurangabad. Devagiri served as a major center for administrative and cultural activities until the kingdom was overwhelmed by the expanding forces of the Delhi Sultanate.

235. (D) Mahasamantas
The political organization of early medieval India was characterized by a hierarchical system involving multiple levels of authority. The term Mahasamanta was used to describe a great feudatory or a powerful subordinate ruler who held significant local influence under a paramount king. These individuals maintained their own military forces and were responsible for the administration of their respective regions while acknowledging imperial.

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236. (B) Advaita, Vishishtadvaita, and Dvaita
The intellectual landscape of early medieval India was defined by profound philosophical debates within the Vedanta tradition. Three major schools of thought emerged, offering different interpretations of the relationship between God, the individual soul, and the material world. These were the Advaita (non-dualism) of Shankara, the Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism) of Ramanujacharya, and the Dvaita (dualism) of Madhavacharya. These systems provided the theological.

237. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Arab geographers and merchants like Suleiman provided important external perspectives on the major powers of ninth-century India. In his accounts, he identified the Rashtrakuta Empire as one of the most powerful states in the world at that time. He also described the Pala kingdom of Bengal, referring to it as Ruhma and noting its impressive military capability, particularly its large contingent of.

238. (C) It was a period of political integration under a single imperial authority.
The early medieval period in India was characterized by political decentralization and the rise of numerous regional states. Following

The agrarian economy of early medieval India was characterized by a complex system of layered land claims known as graded land rights. Rather than simple individual ownership, multiple social groups often held different types of rights over the same piece of land simultaneously. For example, a king might have fiscal rights, a landlord held administrative control, and the peasant possessed cultivation.

204. (B) Colas
The Chola Empire is uniquely distinguished in Indian history for its highly developed and effective institutions of local self-government. Villages were organized into assemblies known as urs for general settlements and sabhas for Brahmana communities. These bodies possessed significant autonomy to manage local resources, resolve disputes, and collect taxes on behalf of the central state. This decentralized system ensured efficient.

205. (C) Buddhist learning
The Maitraka dynasty established a flourishing regional state in Gujarat with its capital at the prosperous city of Vallabhi. This city became one of the most prestigious centers for intellectual activity in Western India, rivaling the famous university at Nalanda. Vallabhi was particularly renowned as a global hub for Buddhist studies, attracting students and scholars from various parts of Asia.

206. (A) 1, 2 and 3
The feudal model offers a comprehensive framework for interpreting the transformations in early medieval Indian society and politics. It argues that the widespread issuance of land grants to religious and secular intermediaries led to the fragmentation of centralized power. This process created a decentralized political structure where landed lords held significant administrative control. The model also emphasizes a decline in.

207. (A) Learning and culture
Raja Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty was a monarch who combined military prowess with a deep passion for scholarship. He established his capital at Dhara, which he developed into one of the most prestigious centers of learning and culture in Central India. The city attracted numerous poets, scientists, and philosophers who were generously patronized by the king. Dhara became a.

208. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Bhakti movement in South India was characterized by a profound shift toward more accessible forms of religious expression. The Alvars and Nayanars composed their emotional hymns in the local Tamil language instead of the traditional Sanskrit. This linguistic choice was strategic, aimed at making spiritual experiences more resonant and understandable for the common people. By bypassing elite language and complex.

209. (B) Centers of education and learning
The intellectual life of early medieval India was sustained by various types of institutions that received significant royal and community support. Agraharas were villages granted to Brahmanas that functioned as important hubs for Sanskrit learning. Mathas served as monastic educational centers associated with different religious sects, providing instruction in theology and philosophy. Together, these centers played a vital role in.

210. (A) Orthodox Brahmanism and Sanskrit literature
The Sena dynasty replaced the Palas in Bengal and brought about a major shift in the region religious and cultural orientation. Unlike the Buddhist-patronizing Palas, the Senas were staunch supporters of orthodox Brahmanical traditions. They emphasized the enforcement of traditional social hierarchies and provided extensive patronage to Sanskrit literature. This period saw a revival of Vaisnavism and the production of.

211. (C) The southern-most part of the Tamil country, around Madurai
The Pandya dynasty was one of the three ancient lineages that dominated the southern part of the Indian peninsula. Their primary territory was centered in the southernmost regions of the Tamil country, with their historic capital located at Madurai. This area was famous for its pearl fisheries and its vibrant literary culture. The Pandyas played a major role in South.

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and integral parts of the supreme reality. Unlike the non-dualist perspective of Shankara, he emphasized the importance of personal devotion and the possibility of a relationship between the devotee and.

158. (D) His successful expedition to the Ganges river valley in North India.
Rajendra Chola I was a powerful monarch who expanded the Chola Empire through several ambitious military campaigns. To commemorate his successful expedition to the banks of the Ganges in North India, he assumed the title Gangaikondachola. He also established a new capital city named Gangaikondacholapuram and constructed a magnificent temple there to symbolize his imperial achievement. This monumental structure served as.

159. (D) All of the above
The agrarian economy of early medieval India was defined by several interconnected features that transformed rural life. The systematic distribution of land grants led to the emergence of numerous intermediaries between the state and the cultivators. This created a complex hierarchy of land rights and often resulted in an increased fiscal burden on the peasantry. Simultaneously, the management of vital water resources became.

160. (B) Pallavas
The tripartite struggle for the control of Kannauj was a major geopolitical conflict that lasted for over two centuries. This contest involved three primary imperial powers: the Gurjara-Pratiharas of the North, the Palas of the East, and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. Each dynasty sought to dominate the Gangetic plains to establish its sovereign status. The Pallavas, however, were a southern power.

161. (A) The Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas
Arab merchants and geographers like Suleiman provided valuable external accounts of the political situation in ninth-century India. He identified and described the three major imperial powers that were then dominant on the subcontinent: the Palas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas, and the Rashtrakutas. His observations provide insights into their military strength, their relative power, and their cultural traits. These accounts are vital for understanding.

162. (A) The king's direct political control
The segmentary state theory offers a specific interpretation of the Chola imperial administration, challenging the idea of a highly centralized state. It argues that while the Chola monarch held supreme ritual and symbolic status, his direct political and administrative control was limited to the core regions. In more peripheral areas, local segments maintained a significant degree of autonomy. This theory emphasizes the.

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163. (B) Sanskrit
The Pallava court was a vibrant center of culture where Sanskrit was favored as the primary language for administrative and literary purposes. Many royal inscriptions and significant literary works of the period were composed in this classical language. While the local Tamil language was used for devotional literature and in some official contexts, Sanskrit remained the hallmark of state elite culture. This.

164. (D) Who belonged to the 'Antyaja' castes, outside the four-varna framework.
Alberuni account of Indian society in the eleventh century includes detailed observations on the social hierarchy and the concept of ritual purity. He noted the existence of groups he called antyaja, who were placed entirely outside the formal four-fold Varna system. These communities were subjected to various social exclusions and were considered ritually untouchable by the higher castes. This marginalization was.

165. (C) Plunder of wealth
The military expeditions of Mahmud of Ghazni into northern India were primarily driven by economic objectives. He targeted prosperous urban centers and wealthy religious institutions to acquire the vast resources needed to finance his imperial ambitions in Central Asia. His raids resulted in the systematic extraction of gold, jewels, and other valuables from various parts of the country. While these campaigns.

166. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Women property rights in early medieval India were significantly constrained by dominant patriarchal legal traditions. The standard legal texts of the period recognized stridhana as a

social hierarchy, they were typically placed in the category of Shudras, reflecting.

221. (C) Hoysalas
The political geography of early medieval India was defined by various powerful regional dynasties. The Gurjara-Pratiharas, Paramaras, and Gahadavalas were major North Indian powers that competed for dominance in the Gangetic plains and Central India. In contrast, the Hoysalas were a southern power centered in the Deccan plateau, specifically in the region of modern Karnataka. They left a significant artistic and.

222. (D) Mandapika
The early medieval period saw the emergence of new types of local commercial centers across the Indian subcontinent. The term mandapika was used to describe a local market center where various trade goods were gathered and taxed. These centers played a vital role in connecting the rural agrarian economy with broader trade networks. Over time, many mandapikas evolved into larger urban settlements.

223. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Early medieval India witnessed the development of different spiritual paths aimed at achieving liberation or spiritual fulfillment. Shankara promoted the path of knowledge, arguing that the realization of the non-dual nature of reality was essential. Simultaneously, the Tamil poet-saints of the Bhakti movement advocated the path of devotion, emphasizing that intense, personal love for the divine was the key to salvation. Both.

224. (B) Vatapi (Badami)
The Western Chalukyas of Badami were the first major imperial power to dominate the Deccan plateau from the sixth to the eighth centuries. They established their primary political and administrative center at Vatapi, which is modern-day Badami. This city served as a magnificent hub for architectural innovation and cultural development. The dynasty eventually fell to the Rashtrakutas, but their legacy was later.

225. (B) The Ghaznavids focused on plunder, while the Ghurids laid the foundation for the Delhi Sultanate.
The two major waves of Turkish invasions into India were driven by different strategic objectives. The Ghaznavid campaigns led by Mahmud focused on the systematic plunder of India wealthy temple towns to finance Central Asian wars. In contrast, the subsequent Ghurid invasions under Muhammad Ghori aimed at the permanent conquest and political control of the Indian heartland. This second wave paved.

226. (A) Krishna I
The Rashtrakuta dynasty is celebrated for its monumental contributions to Indian rock-cut architecture. King Krishna I is credited with the commission of the astounding Kailasanatha temple at Ellora. This extraordinary structure was carved entirely out of a single piece of living rock, beginning from the top and working downwards. It represents one of the most remarkable technical and artistic achievements in world.

227. (C) The ritual impurity and social segregation of certain caste groups.
Social life in early medieval India was increasingly influenced by rigid notions of ritual purity and social hierarchy. The concept of untouchability became more pronounced during this period, referring to the practice of social segregation applied to certain caste groups. These communities were considered ritually impure and were forced to live on the margins of society. This social practice was documented by.

228. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Chola Empire was characterized by a sophisticated and powerful state structure that projected its influence far beyond its core territories. They maintained a formidable standing army and a highly advanced navy, which were used for both internal consolidation and overseas expansion. Their successful maritime campaigns included significant expeditions against the Srivijaya Empire. Simultaneously, their administration featured a remarkable system of.

229. (B) Tripuri (near Jabalpur)
The Kalacuri-Chedi dynasty was a major political force in central India during the early medieval period. They ruled from their strategic capital city of Tripuri, located near modern Jabalpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. From this base, they

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political hierarchy. These fabricated genealogies served as a vital tool for political legitimation, helping rulers project an image of.

176. (B) Rashtrakutas
The Rashtrakutas were the paramount power in the Deccan during the eighth and ninth centuries, frequently intervening in the politics of North India. They were a key participant in the prolonged tripartite struggle for control over the symbolic city of Kannauj. Their military strength allowed them to successfully challenge the other major contenders, the Palas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas. This period marks.

177. (A) A path of intense personal love and devotion to a deity
In the religious context of early medieval India, the term Bhakti describes a transformative approach to the divine. It emphasizes an intense, emotional, and personal bond between the devotee and their chosen deity, such as Shiva or Vishnu. This path was presented as being accessible to all individuals, regardless of their social status or intellectual training. The popularity of Bhakti led.

178. (A) Mahmud of Ghazni
Alberuni was a learned polymath who arrived in India during the early eleventh century, traveling with the forces of Mahmud of Ghazni. During his stay, he devoted himself to an exhaustive study of Indian culture, philosophy, and various scientific traditions. His mastery of Sanskrit allowed him to directly interpret classical texts, resulting in his monumental work, the Kitab-ul-Hind. His account.

179. (C) Extremely intricate and detailed soapstone carvings
The Hoysala dynasty is celebrated for its unique and highly ornate style of temple architecture, which flourished in the southern Deccan. These temples are most famous for their incredibly detailed and intricate carvings made from soft soapstone, which hardens over time. Every inch of the exterior walls is often covered with sculpted figures, floral motifs, and mythological scenes. This artistic achievement.

180. (D) Battle of Chandawar
The Gahadavala kingdom was a significant political force in the Gangetic heartland until the late twelfth century. Its last major ruler, Jayachandra, was decisively defeated by the invading forces of Muhammad Ghori. This important clash occurred in 1194 AD at the Battle of Chandawar. The defeat and death of the Gahadavala monarch allowed the Ghurid forces to consolidate their control.

181. (C) Gurjara-Pratiharas - North-Western India
The major imperial powers of the early medieval period were each associated with a specific regional base. The Gurjara-Pratiharas were the dominant force in North-Western and Central India for several centuries. The Palas were centered in the eastern regions of Bengal and Bihar, while the Rashtrakutas were based in the Deccan. The Pallavas were a southern power located in the Tondaimandalam.

182. (D) A is false but R is true.
The older historical view that characterized the early medieval period as a dark age of total decay has been largely replaced by more nuanced perspectives. Modern historians, particularly those supporting the integrative model, argue that this era was a dynamic time of state formation and cultural development. They point to the rise of regional kingdoms and distinct artistic styles as evidence.

183. (D) The goods traded and the systems (barter, currency) used for trade.
In the context of the early medieval economy, the phrase merchandise and exchange refers to the entire framework of commercial activities. This includes the various types of goods that were traded locally and internationally, as well as the mechanisms used for these transactions. While agricultural products remained central, manufactured items like textiles and spices were major trade items. The systems of.

184. (A) Assam
The Varman dynasty played a pivotal role in the early history of the Brahmaputra valley, establishing a stable political entity in the region known as Kamarupa. This area corresponds to the modern state of Assam. Their rule marked the beginning of a documented political narrative for the region and its integration into the broader

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the fall of the classical empires, the subcontinent saw a proliferation of smaller kingdoms that developed distinct cultural and political identities. This era was marked by the system of land grants and the maturation of regional languages. However, there was no single imperial authority.

239. (A) A commercial town or a settlement of merchants.
Urban life in early medieval South India included specialized settlements that were dedicated to commercial activities. The term nagaram referred to a town or a specific area within a town that was inhabited and managed by a collective body of merchants. These settlements functioned as hubs for both local and long-distance trade. The nagaram possessed a degree of autonomy and played a crucial.

240. (B) Having a number of queens as ruling sovereigns.
The Bhaumakara dynasty of Odisha is uniquely notable in early medieval Indian history for the prominent role of women in its political leadership. For several generations, the kingdom was governed by a series of female monarchs who held full regal titles and exercised sovereign authority. This pattern of succession suggests a social and political context that allowed women to participate in the highest.

241. (B) The debate revolves around whether the period was marked by feudal fragmentation (Feudal Model), ritual sovereignty (Segmentary Model), or a process of state-building (Integrative Model).
Modern historians have proposed different frameworks to interpret the complex political changes of the early medieval period. The feudal model emphasizes the role of land grants in decentralizing power. The segmentary state model suggests a system where the king had symbolic rather than direct control over a vast periphery. In contrast, the integrative model views the era as a dynamic phase of state formation.

242. (A) Assam
The Varman dynasty was the first historical ruling house to establish a stable and significant political entity in the Brahmaputra valley. They ruled over the kingdom of Kamarupa, which corresponds to the modern state of Assam. Their reign marked the beginning of a documented political narrative for the region and its integration into the broader historical framework of early medieval India. They maintained diplomatic.

243. (C) Jainism
The Western Ganga dynasty, based in southern Karnataka, was a major regional power known for its significant cultural contributions. They were renowned for their long-standing and generous patronage of the Jaina community. Their rule saw the construction of numerous Jaina monuments and the production of several important Jaina literary works. One of their most famous legacies is the colossal monolithic statue of.

244. (D) Invasions from the Delhi Sultanate
The major regional kingdoms of the Deccan plateau, including the Hoysalas, Kakatiyas, and Yadavas, faced a common existential threat in the fourteenth century. These states were eventually overwhelmed by the superior military forces and resources of the expanding Delhi Sultanate. A series of devastating campaigns, particularly those led by Malik Kafur, weakened these kingdoms and led to their eventual collapse or subjugation.

245. (C) It is a comprehensive and critical study of Indian society, sciences, and customs of the time.
Alberuni Kitab-ul-Hind is one of the most important historical sources for understanding early medieval India. Written in the early eleventh century, it provides a scholarly and detailed account of Indian culture, philosophy, and various scientific traditions. As a learned polymath, Alberuni studied Sanskrit and interacted with local scholars to gain a deep understanding of his subject. His work offers an invaluable external.

246. (B) Mayurasharman
The Kadamba dynasty was one of the earliest indigenous kingdoms to rule over the region of modern Karnataka. It was founded in the fourth century by Mayurasharman, a learned Brahmana who turned into a warrior to assert his independence. From their capital at Banavasi, the Kadambas established a strong regional

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of external travelers. The accounts provided by Suleiman offer valuable insights into the political and economic conditions during the earlier phases of the period. Later, the detailed records of Alberuni, written during the era of the Ghaznavid conquests, provided a profoundly informative perspective on Indian society, science, and religion.

300. (A) It critiques both the Feudal and Segmentary models.

The Integrative model emerged as a distinct historiographical perspective by offering a critical alternative to existing theories. It specifically challenges the core assumptions found in both the Feudal and Segmentary models. By rejecting the ideas of total fragmentation or limited ritual sovereignty, the Integrative model argues for a more complex process of regional state formation and the merging of structures.

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organized a rebellion that successfully overthrew the Rashtrakuta Empire. This historical sequence establishes a relationship defined by successive political domination rather than peaceful cooperation, shared rule, or an alliance.

256. (B) The Colas
During the early medieval period, certain South Indian monarchies expanded their influence beyond the mainland through maritime strength. The Cola dynasty distinguished itself by developing a formidable naval force. This military capability allowed them to effectively control critical Indian Ocean trade routes and project their political and military power as far as the regions of Southeast Asia for many years.

257. (D) The Colas
The political landscape of the far south was defined by long-standing rivalries between competing regional powers seeking hegemony. The Pandyas of Madurai frequently clashed with the Colas, who rose to prominence from the ninth century onwards. This persistent conflict between the two dynasties involved multiple phases of ascendancy and decline as they struggled for territorial control and economic dominance.

258. (A) The Cola kingdom
Administrative efficiency was a hallmark of the major kingdoms in early medieval South India. The Cola administration is particularly celebrated for its highly organized structure, especially its sophisticated system of local self-government within villages. This decentralized approach allowed for effective local management and remained a distinctive feature that set their governance apart from other contemporary dynasties of the era.

259. (C) Participating in the spice trade with the West
Economic activities in early medieval South India were often specialized based on geographical location. While other dynasties focused on naval expansion or pearl fisheries, the Ceras of the Malabar coast played a vital role in international commerce. Their primary economic contribution involved the lucrative spice trade with Western regions, leveraging their coastal position to facilitate global exchange and wealth.

260. (A) a consistent struggle for supremacy among the major kingdoms.
The political history of South India was characterized by intense competition between several powerful monarchies. A tripartite struggle for supremacy, primarily involving the Pallavas, Pandyas, and eventually the Colas, served as a defining feature of the era. This constant state of rivalry and shifting alliances shaped the regional dynamics and dictated the political and military trajectory of the subcontinent.

261. (D) The Palas
Eastern India emerged as a significant political and religious hub under the influence of the Pala dynasty in Bengal. Known for their dedicated patronage of Mahayana Buddhism, the Pala rulers were responsible for establishing several important educational and religious institutions. A notable example of their contribution is the founding of the prestigious Vikramashila Mahavihara, which became a major Buddhist center.

262. (B) The Somavamsis
The architectural heritage of Odisha was significantly enriched by the contributions of regional dynasties. Historical evidence identifies the Somavamsi dynasty as the architects responsible for initiating the construction of the magnificent Lingaraja temple located at Bhubaneswar. This major project coincided with their efforts to unify the major parts of ancient Kalinga under a single, cohesive political authority and cultural identity.

263. (C) The Maitrakas of Vallabhi
Western India hosted vital centers of learning and commerce during the early medieval period. The Maitrakas of Vallabhi established a kingdom in Gujarat that became famous for its educational excellence. Their institution, Vallabhi University, gained such high repute that it was considered a major rival to the famous Nalanda University, serving as a prominent center for Jain and Buddhist studies.

264. (D) Buddhism to orthodox Brahmanism.
The transition from Pala to Sena rule in Bengal brought about a profound change in the state's religious orientation. While the Palas were renowned for their support of Mahayana

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282. (B) forts, administrative centers, or temples.
Urbanization during the early medieval period was characterized by a shifting pattern of settlement. While some ancient cities declined, new urban centers emerged in response to changing political and religious needs. These developing settlements were frequently established around strategic locations such as military forts, royal administrative headquarters, or large temple complexes, which served as new focal points for economic activity.

283. (B) They had their own militias and were involved in charitable works.
Merchant guilds were multifaceted organizations that exercised significant influence beyond simple trade and commerce. To ensure the safety of their goods during travel, these guilds maintained their own private militias. Additionally, they performed important social functions by using collective funds for charitable purposes and religious donations, demonstrating their deep integration into the social and political fabric of society.

284. (A) trade and cultural colonization in Southeast Asia.
India's external economic relations were robust, particularly involving interactions with maritime regions. A key aspect of this period was the active involvement of Indian merchants and religious figures in Southeast Asia. Through trade and cultural colonization, they established a strong presence in areas like Sumatra and Java, influencing the development of local states and integrating these regions into India's sphere.

285. (C) It was a dynamic process involving both the decline of old cities and the rise of new ones.
Urbanization in early medieval India was a complex and evolving phenomenon rather than a simple period of decay. Historical evidence suggests it was a dynamic process where the fortunes of cities changed over time. While several older urban centers lost their prominence, new settlements simultaneously rose to importance, often developing around new political, military, or religious hubs throughout the subcontinent.

286. (D) The construction of magnificent temples
The Bhakti movement transformed the religious landscape of early medieval India by emphasizing a personal, emotional bond with a deity. This spiritual fervor found its most visible and lasting expression in the widespread construction of magnificent temples. Supported by royal patronage, these structures became the physical centers of religious life, serving as the focal points for community worship and artistic expression.

287. (C) Advaita (non-dualism).
The philosophical environment of early medieval India was shaped by the contributions of several influential thinkers. Shankara is recognized for propounding the doctrine of Advaita, or non-dualism. His teachings emphasized the fundamental unity of the individual soul with the supreme reality. This intellectual framework dominated the philosophical discourse of the era and provided a foundation for subsequent interpretations and religious developments.

288. (B) The Tamil Bhakti movement
The Tamil Bhakti movement served as a powerful catalyst for religious change in South India. It was driven by the intense devotional poetry of the Alvars and the Nayanars. The Alvars were Vaisnava saints dedicated to Vishnu, while the Nayanars were Saiva saints devoted to Shiva. Together, their emotive expressions of faith helped popularize personal devotionalism across the regional religious landscape.

289. (D) Functioning as large landowners and employers
Temples in early medieval India were not merely places for spiritual practice; they functioned as significant social and economic institutions. Due to extensive land grants from royals and elites, many temples became major landowners. They managed large agricultural estates and employed diverse groups of people, including priests and laborers, thereby playing a central role in the regional economy and administration.

290. (A) ritual gifting and pilgrimage.
Religious practice in early medieval India was deeply integrated through specific cultural concepts. The term dana referred to the act of ritual gifting, particularly directed towards Brahmanas and temple institutions to earn merit. Similarly, the concept of tirtha involved undertaking pilgrimages to sacred sites.

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governance. Such titles reflect a layered political structure where the central monarch was recognized as the supreme authority over a network of lesser, subordinate rulers. This hierarchy acknowledged that power was shared among various levels of regional chiefs.

274. (A) To serve as a tool for legitimizing authority and integrating territory
Royal patronage extended to Brahmanas and religious institutions served objectives beyond mere spiritual merit. In the early medieval context, these grants were strategic tools used by monarchs to validate their right to rule. Furthermore, by establishing religious and social presence in outlying areas, patronage helped integrate newly conquered territories into the existing administrative and cultural framework of the kingdom.

275. (C) the fluid loyalty of feudatory chiefs dependent on the king's power.
The political stability of early medieval states was frequently compromised by the decentralized nature of their authority. Because the central ruler relied on a network of feudatory chiefs for military and political support, the system remained precarious. The loyalty of these samantas was often fluid, fluctuating based on the perceived military strength and effectiveness of the central monarch.

276. (A) Brahmadeya.
The agrarian economy of early medieval India was significantly influenced by the practice of monarchs issuing formal land grants. When these grants were specifically designated for Brahmanas, they were referred to by the technical term Brahmadeya. Often recorded on copper plates, such donations established specific rights over land and resources, facilitating the expansion of settled agriculture and the social order.

277. (D) emergence of graded land rights and a class of landed intermediaries.
The widespread issuance of land grants to various religious and secular entities transformed the traditional agrarian structure. This process led to the development of graded land rights, where multiple stakeholders held different claims over the same territory. A direct consequence was the rise of a powerful class of landed intermediaries who exercised fiscal and administrative control over the peasantry.

278. (B) A reduction to a state of dependency with obligations like forced labour
The introduction of landed intermediaries through the land grant system profoundly impacted the socio-economic status of the peasantry. Instead of remaining independent, many cultivators were reduced to a state of dependency. They became subject to various burdens, including heavy taxation, restrictions on their physical mobility, and the requirement to perform forced labour for the benefit of the landholders.

279. (C) The prevalence of coins varied, with some arguments for a decline in circulation in certain phases.
Economic history reveals that the use of currency in early medieval India was not uniform across all regions. While metallic coins existed, their circulation fluctuated significantly. Some historical perspectives suggest that certain phases experienced a noticeable decline in the use of coins, leading to more localized economies where trade was less commercialized and relied on different mechanisms of exchange.

280. (D) a local enterprise undertaken by communities, temples, or chiefs.
Irrigation was essential for the agrarian economy, yet its management was typically decentralized rather than controlled by a central bureaucracy. The construction and maintenance of vital water resources, such as tanks and canals, were primarily local responsibilities. These projects were usually undertaken as collaborative enterprises by local village communities, wealthy temple institutions, or regional feudatory chiefs to ensure productivity.

281. (A) Ayyavole, Manigramam, and Nanadesi
Trade in early medieval India was facilitated by powerful corporate bodies known as merchant guilds. These organizations, such as the Ayyavole, Manigramam, and Nanadesi, operated across vast regions and played a vital role in both domestic and international commerce. They were highly organized entities, often possessing their own militias and funds to support charitable activities while influencing economic life.

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presence that influenced the political and cultural development of the western Deccan for.

247. (D) It created a hierarchy of landlords or intermediaries between the king and the actual cultivator.
The widespread issuance of land grants was the most significant feature of the early medieval agrarian economy. By transferring the state right to collect revenue and manage local affairs, these grants created a new social layer of landed intermediaries. This development altered the direct relationship between the monarch and the tillers of the soil. It led to a more complex social hierarchy and.

248. (A) South India
The political history of South India during the early medieval period was dominated by the successive rise and fall of several major imperial powers. The Pallavas of Kanchi, the Pandyas of Madurai, and the Cholas of Thanjavur were the most significant dynasties in this region. The Ceras also held a prominent position on the western coast. Together, these kingdoms shaped the cultural, architectural.

249. (C) Tripartite Struggle
The Gurjara-Pratiharas emerged as the dominant imperial power in North India after participating in a prolonged military conflict known as the tripartite struggle. This contest involved two other major powers: the Palas of Bengal and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. Each dynasty sought to control the symbolic city of Kannauj to establish its sovereign status. The Pratiharas eventually managed to capture the city.

250. (A) A policy of enforcing the original four Varnas without change.
The proliferation of numerous caste groups during the early medieval period was a result of several dynamic social and economic processes. These included the systematic absorption of various tribal communities into the agrarian order and the formation of new professional guilds. Regional variations in customs also contributed to the multiplication of identities. The original four-fold Varna system proved flexible enough to incorporate these.

251. (B) The Western Chalukyas of Badami
The political history of the Deccan illustrates a transition of power following the decline of established empires. Historical records indicate that the Rashtrakuta dynasty rose to prominence by filling the power vacuum created after the downfall of the Western Chalukyas of Badami. This significant shift established the Rashtrakutas as the dominant force in the region for over two centuries.

252. (A) The Western Chalukyas
The Chalukyas of Kalyani emerged as a major political force after overthrowing the Rashtrakutas. In an effort to establish legitimacy and link their rule to a prestigious past, they consciously revived the administrative and cultural legacy of the earlier Western Chalukyas. This restoration represented a deliberate attempt to claim the heritage of their historical predecessors within the Deccan region.

253. (C) Kakatiyas, Hoysalas, and Yadavas
As the central authority of the Chalukyas of Kalyani weakened, their extensive empire fragmented into several independent regional domains. The most significant successor states arising from this collapse included the Kakatiyas of Warangal, the Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra, and the Yadavas of Devagiri. These kingdoms inherited Chalukyan traditions while developing unique regional identities across the landscape of early medieval India.

254. (D) The fragmentation and constant internal warfare among successor states
The late thirteenth century saw the Deccan region face significant external threats from the Delhi Sultanate. The primary factor contributing to the vulnerability of regional kingdoms was the internal instability caused by political fragmentation. Continuous internecine warfare between the successor states weakened their collective military strength, making it impossible to provide a unified defense against incoming invasions from the north.

255. (C) successive domination, where the latter overthrew the former.
The transition of power in the Deccan was marked by a shift in hierarchy where former subordinates rose against their overlords. Initially serving as feudatories, the Chalukyas of Kalyani eventually

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Together, these practices helped connect diverse communities and regions into a unified and shared cultural landscape.

291. (C) a multiplicity of Jatis based on birth and occupation.
While the Varna system provided a theoretical framework for social order, the practical reality of early medieval society was far more complex. It was dominated by a vast multiplicity of Jatis, or castes, which were defined by birth and specific occupational roles. This stratification created a rigid social hierarchy that influenced every aspect of an individual's life, from status to economic activity.

292. (A) Tribal groups
The proliferation of castes during the early medieval period was driven by several socio-economic processes. A primary factor was the assimilation of various tribal groups into the expanding settled agricultural society. As these groups were integrated into the agrarian economy, they were assigned specific places within the existing social hierarchy, leading to the creation of new Jatis and increasing overall complexity.

293. (D) The status of women generally declined, though there were exceptions for elite women.
Social norms during the early medieval period generally led to a decline in the overall status of women, with prescriptive texts emphasizing dependence on male relatives. However, this trend was not universal. Historical evidence indicates that women from royal and elite families occasionally participated in public life and possessed property rights, suggesting that the enforcement of patriarchal norms varied across social strata.

294. (B) their assignment to a place, usually low, within the caste hierarchy.
The integration of tribal populations into the agrarian economy was a significant social process. As these groups transitioned into peasant life, they were formally incorporated into the Varna order. However, this assimilation typically resulted in them being assigned to the lower tiers of the caste hierarchy. This process expanded the agricultural workforce while simultaneously reinforcing the stratified nature of Indian society.

295. (C) associated with impure occupations and faced severe social segregation.
At the absolute bottom of the early medieval social hierarchy were groups classified as untouchables. These individuals were typically associated with occupations that were considered ritually impure by the dominant social order. Consequently, they were subjected to severe social disabilities, including rigid segregation from the rest of society. Their status as an oppressed segment became increasingly formalized during this period.

296. (D) The Feudal model
The Feudal model is a prominent historiographical interpretation that draws parallels between early medieval India and European feudalism. It characterizes this era by political fragmentation and a decline in international trade and urban centers. A central feature of this model is the rise of a subject peasantry, which resulted from the widespread practice of land grants creating a hierarchy of intermediaries.

297. (A) direct political control in the core area and only ritual sovereignty in the periphery.
The Segmentary model offers a specific interpretation of state power, particularly in South India. This model suggests that the state exercised dual sovereignty rather than uniform control. While the monarch maintained direct political and administrative authority within a central core region, his influence in the outlying peripheries was limited to mere ritual hegemony over various self-governing local segments and political units.

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298. (B) As a phase of state formation and integration at a regional level
The Integrative model provides a critique of theories that view the early medieval period as a time of decay. Instead, it interprets this era as a constructive phase of state formation occurring at the regional level. This perspective emphasizes the gradual integration of local polities and tribal societies into larger state structures, which ultimately fostered the growth of regional cultures and polities.

299. (B) Suleiman and Alberuni
Historical understanding of early medieval India is significantly enriched by the observations

8. The expansion and consolidation of the Mughal Empire from Akbar to Aurangzeb represents which phase of its history?
(A) Greatest territorial and administrative stability
(B) The foundation period of initial imperial conquest
(C) The era of rapid internal disintegration and strife
(D) The final phase leading to absolute imperial decline

9. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The study of chronicles is essential for understanding the political history of the Delhi Sultanate.
Reason (R) : Chronicles were official records kept in Daftar Khannas, primarily consisting of firmans and bahis.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

10. Who among the following is historically recognized as the individual responsible for the foundation of Swaraj?
(A) Shivaji
(B) Baji Rao Peshwa
(C) Balaji Vishwanath
(D) Aurangzeb

11. The foundation of the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms marked a significant political development in which region of India?
(A) The Gangetic Plains
(B) The Malabar Coast
(C) The Eastern Himalayan region
(D) The Deccan Plateau

12. Consider the following statements about the sources of Medieval Indian History:
1. Sanskrit texts are a form of literary sourc(E)
2. Akhbarat are a type of document found in Daftar Khannas.
3. Monuments are classified as literary sources.
4. Epigraphic sources refer to the study of coins.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

13. The Suris are historically placed between the reigns of which two Mughal emperors?
(A) Babur and Humayun
(B) Akbar and Jahangir
(C) Humayun and Akbar
(D) Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb

14. What is the most appropriate description of the Maratha Confederacy?
(A) A centralized monarchy ruled by Shivaji alone
(B) A subsidiary alliance created by the Mughals
(C) Five Deccan Sultanates united against Vijayanagara
(D) Decentralized alliance of semi-autonomous leaders

15. Arrange the following dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate in chronological order of their rule.
1. Tughlaqs
2. Khaljis
3. Sayyids
4. Lodis

(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 3, 1, 4
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

16. Which of the following is a correct pair of a source type and its example?
(A) Numismatic Source – Firmans
(B) Literary Source – Sanskrit texts
(C) Epigraphic Source – Chronicles
(D) Archaeological Source – Akhbarat

17. The decline of the Delhi Sultanate paved the way for the rise of various regional kingdoms and the eventual establishment of which empire?
(A) The Maratha Empire
(B) The Mughal Empire
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Bahmani Sultanate

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CHAPTER 04

Medieval India: Sources and Political Developments

1. Which of the following is primarily considered a numismatic source for the study of Medieval Indian History?
(A) Royal firmans
(B) Coins issued by rulers
(C) Persian chronicles
(D) Sanskrit literary texts

2. The term 'Daftar Khannas' in the context of Medieval Indian sources refers to what?
(A) An archive or record office containing official documents
(B) A collection of detailed accounts by foreign travelers
(C) A dedicated library of religious and literary Sanskrit texts
(D) A government workshop for creating epigraphic inscriptions

3. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Foreign travellers' accounts, such as those from Persia and Arabia, provide external perspectives on the political and social conditions.
Statement II : Material evidences and monuments are considered subjective literary sources rather than archaeological ones.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

4. Which of the following is NOT historically classified as a Deccan Sultanate?
(A) Bijapur
(B) Golkonda
(C) Ahmadnagar
(D) Malwa

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5. Match the dynasty in List I with its corresponding founder or key figure in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty/Empire)
P. Mughal Empire
Q. Suri Dynasty
R. Maratha Swaraj
S. Ghorid invasions
List II: (Founder/Figure)
1. Sher Shah Suri
2. Shivaji
3. Muhammad Ghori
4. Babur
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

6. The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate is most directly a political consequence of the invasions led by which group?
(A) The Mughals
(B) The Ghorids
(C) The Peshwas
(D) The Gajapatis

7. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the political developments of the Delhi Sultanate.
(A) The Tughlaqs succeeded the Khaljis.
(B) The Lodis were the final dynasty of the Sultanate period.
(C) The establishment of the Sultanate is linked to the early Turks.
(D) The Sayyids ruled immediately after the Ghorids.

Buddhism, their successors, the Senas, were staunch proponents of orthodox Brahmanism. This shift influenced the cultural and literary landscape of the region, leading to increased patronage for traditional Sanskrit literature.

265. (A) The presence of several ruling queens in their line
The political landscape of early medieval Odisha featured several unique dynastic characteristics. The Bhaumakara dynasty is particularly distinguished in historical records due to the significant number of ruling queens within their lineage. This presence of female sovereigns suggests a distinct social or political structure that allowed women to exercise supreme authority, setting them apart from many contemporary Indian dynasties.

266. (B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
In North India, the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty established an extensive empire that played a crucial role in regional security. At its peak, their territory covered a vast portion of the north, providing a formidable barrier against external threats. Most significantly, this empire acted as a persistent bulwark that successfully resisted Arab incursions from the west for a very significant period.

267. (B) Kannauj
During the early medieval period, the city of Kannauj became the focal point of North Indian politics due to its immense strategic and symbolic importance. This led to the famous tripartite struggle, a long-term conflict involving the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Palas of Bengal, and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. Each power sought to dominate this specific region to establish hegemony.

268. (A) The Gahadavalas
The collapse of the Gurjara-Pratihara hegemony led to the rise of several independent Rajput dynasties in North India. Among these new powers, the Gahadavalas successfully established their rule over the strategically vital Kannauj region. By filling the political vacuum left by their predecessors, the Gahadavalas became one of the prominent kingdoms defining the political landscape during this important transitional phase.

269. (C) art, architecture, and literature.
The Paramara dynasty of Malwa, with its capital at Dhara, was known for more than just territorial expansion. Under the leadership of famous rulers like King Bhoja, the kingdom became a vibrant hub of intellectual and creative activity. Bhoja is specifically celebrated as a distinguished patron who supported the extensive development of art, architecture, and classical Sanskrit literature.

270. (D) The fragmentation of political authority and the rise of several independent dynasties
The decline of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire significantly altered the political configuration of North India. Instead of a single central authority, the region experienced widespread fragmentation. This collapse paved the way for numerous independent Rajput dynasties to carve out their own domains. This complex web of smaller, rival kingdoms ultimately weakened the collective strength and unity of the entire region.

271. (C) Holding democratic elections
Kings in early medieval India utilized various traditional methods to legitimize their authority and establish a prestigious connection. These methods included performing Vedic sacrifices, fabricating genealogies linked to mythical lineages, and providing extensive patronage to temples and Brahmanas. However, the modern concept of democratic elections was entirely absent from the political ideology and governing practices of that historical period.

272. (B) autonomous rulers within their territories who owed allegiance to a central king.
The administrative hierarchy of early medieval kingdoms relied heavily on a network of subordinate chiefs known as samantas. These feudatories played a dual role in the political system; they enjoyed significant autonomy and governance within their own territories while simultaneously owing formal allegiance and providing military support to the central monarch. This structure created a layered distribution of power.

273. (D) The king was the highest among a hierarchy of subordinate rulers.
The adoption of grand titles like Maharajadhiraja, meaning "king of great kings," provides insight into the decentralized nature of early medieval

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18. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Maratha power expanded significantly under the Peshwas following the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji.
Statement II : The historical study of Maratha power includes an investigation into the causes of its eventual decline.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

19. The study of inscriptions on stone, metal plates, and other hard surfaces is known as what?
(A) Numismatics
(B) Chronicles
(C) Epigraphy
(D) Cartography

20. Consider the following statements about the Bahmani Sultanate:
1. It was a major power in the Deccan region.
2. It eventually disintegrated into several smaller sultanates.
3. It was a contemporary and rival of the Vijayanagara Empir(E)
4. It was founded by Babur.
5. It was primarily located in Eastern Indi(A)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 1, 4, and 5 only
(D) 3, 4, and 5 only

21. The period of "Later Mughals" is best characterized by what political phenomenon?
(A) Rapid imperial expansion and consolidation
(B) Series of powerful and administrative rulers
(C) Progressive disintegration of the Mughal Empire
(D) The golden age of classic Mughal architecture

22. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a medieval dynasty primarily associated with which region?
(A) The Deccan
(B) Eastern India (Odisha region)
(C) Western India
(D) The Punjab

23. Which of the following is an incorrect pair of a ruler and the dynasty they belong to?
(A) Akbar – Mughal
(B) Alauddin – Khalji
(C) Shivaji – Maratha
(D) Babur – Lodi

24. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom led to the formation of five independent Deccan Sultanates.
Reason (R) : The five sultanates resulting from this disintegration were Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

25. The study of "Mughal–Maratha relations" in historical context primarily focuses on:
(A) Only periods of conflict and warfare between the two powers.
(B) Only alliances and treaties signed between the two.
(C) Complex political interactions involving conflict and diplomacy
(D) The assimilation of Mughal culture by the Marathas.

26. Which of the following is identified as a specific type of document found within 'Daftar Khannas'?
(A) Firmans
(B) Chronicles
(C) Sanskrit Literature
(D) Numismatic catalogues

27. Match the historical period or event in List I with the associated group or dynasty in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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(B) Imperial disintegration
(C) Political stability
(D) Cultural renaissance

66. The Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis are examples of significant regional powers located outside of which two major imperial heartlands?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire
(B) Bengal and Gujarat
(C) Malwa and Rajasthan
(D) The Punjab and Sindh

67. Which of the following correctly identifies a key theme in the study of the Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Its foundation by Babur
(B) Its alliance with the Suryavamshi Gajapatis
(C) Its eventual disintegration into five sultanates
(D) Its peaceful coexistence with the Vijayanagara Empire

68. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The expansion of the Maratha kingdom under the Peshwas marks a significant phase after Shivaji.
Statement II : The Peshwas were the primary figures behind the initial foundation of Maratha Swaraj.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

69. The historical narrative of Babur, Humayun, and the Suris constitutes what phase of Mughal history?
(A) The decline and disintegration
(B) The period of consolidation
(C) The foundation of the empire
(D) The era of the Later Mughals

70. Consider the following sources of Medieval Indian History:
1. Archaeological sources
2. Epigraphic sources
3. Numismatic sources
4. Literary sources
5. Foreign Travellers' Accounts

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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71. The study of the "Decline of the Delhi Sultanate" immediately precedes the study of which major political event in North India?
(A) The rise of the Marathas
(B) The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom
(C) The invasion of the Ghorids
(D) The foundation of the Mughal Empire

72. The Maratha Confederacy represents a phase of Maratha polity characterized by:
(A) A collective of powerful Maratha chiefs
(B) A highly centralized structure under a single ruler
(C) The initial stage of Shivaji's conquests
(D) A subsidiary alliance with the Mughals under Aurangzeb

73. What is the most appropriate reason for including regional languages alongside Persian and Sanskrit as sources?
(A) Proving that Persian and Sanskrit were irrelevant
(B) Because regional languages were used officially
(C) Providing a diverse picture of medieval society
(D) Focus exclusively on non-political history

74. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : A study of both Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms is essential for understanding medieval Deccan history.
Reason (R) : These two powerful, competing entities dominated the political landscape of the Deccan for a significant period.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

37. The study of 'Akhbarat' as a historical source would primarily involve analyzing what kind of documents?
(A) Royal decrees and orders
(B) Genealogies of kings
(C) News reports or official bulletins
(D) Poetic compositions in regional languages

38. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Ghorids and the early Turks are foundational to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
Statement II : The Delhi Sultanate period ended with the Sayyids, who ruled before the Lodis.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

39. The political developments in the Deccan involving Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar relate to the period after the disintegration of which major kingdom?
(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Mughal Empire
(C) The Maratha Confederacy
(D) The Bahmani Sultanate

40. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The period from Akbar to Aurangzeb is described as one of "Expansion and Consolidation" for the Mughal Empire.
Reason (R) : This period saw the territorial limits of the empire reach their maximum extent and the establishment of a robust administrative framework.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

41. Which of the following sources would be most useful for understanding the official, top-down perspective of the Mughal administration?
(A) Regional language literary sources
(B) Sanskrit texts
(C) Firmans from the Daftar Khannas
(D) Archaeological material evidences

42. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched regarding historical classifications?
(A) Eastern India – Bahmanis
(B) Deccan Sultanate – Golkonda
(C) Delhi Sultanate – Tughlaqs
(D) Mughal Empire – Suris

43. The "foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji" signifies:
(A) The complete overthrow of the Mughal Empire.
(B) The formation of the Maratha Confederacy.
(C) The beginning of the Peshwa's rule.
(D) The establishment of an independent Maratha sovereignty.

44. Match the ruler or dynasty in List I with their primary area of influence in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Ruler/Dynasty)
P. Suryavamshi Gajapatis
Q. Bahmanis
R. Lodis
S. Later Mughals
List II: (Area of Influence)
1. Deccan
2. Delhi
3. Eastern India
4. Disintegrating All-India Empire
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

45. Historical analysis suggests that the "Decline of the Mughal Empire" and the era of "Later Mughals" was:
(A) A single and sudden political event
(B) Caused solely by rising Maratha power
(C) Gradual process of weakness and fragmentation
(D) Unrelated to any policies of Aurangzeb

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List I: (Period/Event)
P. Foundation of the Mughal Empire
Q. Second major political power in the Deccan
R. Last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate
S. Eastern Indian Dynasty
List II: (Group/Dynasty)
1. Bahmanis
2. Babur
3. Lodis
4. Suryavamshi Gajapatis
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

28. From the perspective of historical sources, a 'Bahi' or 'Pothi' is best understood as:
(A) A monumental inscription
(B) A book, register, or ledger, often part of an archive
(C) A type of coin
(D) A Persian traveller's account

29. The rule of the Suris, under Sher Shah, is significant as an interregnum in the continuity of which dynasty's rule?
(A) Tughlaq dynasty
(B) Lodi dynasty
(C) Mughal dynasty
(D) Sayyid dynasty

30. Consider the following statements about medieval political entities:
1. The Khaljis were a dynasty within the Delhi Sultanat(E)
2. The Bahmanis were a major power in North Indi(A)
3. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were located in the Deccan.
4. The Suris ruled before the Ghorids.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

31. The term "disintegration" is historically used to describe the final phase of which two major political entities?
(A) The Mughal Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate
(B) The Ghorids and the Turks
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire and the Khalji dynasty
(D) The Marathas and the Lodis

32. Persian and Arabic accounts are considered key categories of which type of historical source?
(A) Epigraphic sources
(B) Foreign Travellers' Accounts
(C) Numismatic sources
(D) Daftar Khannas records

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33. Which of the following represents the correct sequence of rulers or dynasties?
(A) Humayun → Babur → Akbar
(B) Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Sayyids
(C) Shivaji → Peshwas → Maratha Confederacy
(D) Lodis → Tughlaqs → Khaljis

34. The cause-and-effect relationship between the decline of the Delhi Sultanate and the foundation of the Mughal Empire is a central theme in the study of:
(A) Transition from the Sultanate to the Mughal era
(B) Early Medieval India and its local governance
(C) The decline of Marathas and regional warfare
(D) Rise of Deccan Sultanates and their politics

35. Arrange the following events in their correct chronological sequence.
1. Foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji
2. Foundation of the Mughal Empire by Babur
3. Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate by the Turks
4. Rise of the Bahmani Sultanate
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

36. Which one of the following is NOT a dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The Khaljis
(B) The Lodis
(C) The Tughlaqs
(D) The Suris

Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : Humayun's reign was interrupted, leading to a temporary loss of the Mughal throne.
Reason (R) : The rise of the Suris under Sher Shah forced Humayun into exile, establishing Suri rule in Delhi.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

57. The study of literary sources in Persian, Sanskrit, and Regional languages is crucial for understanding:
(A) Only the military history of the period.
(B) Only the administrative structure of the Mughal empire.
(C) The diverse cultural, social, and political narratives of medieval India.
(D) The economic policies of the Marathas exclusively.

58. Which of the following options lists entities that all belong to the Deccan region?
(A) Vijayanagara, Bahmanis, Bijapur, Golkonda
(B) Vijayanagara, Bahmanis, Bijapur, Lodis
(C) Bahmanis, Golkonda, Ahmadnagar, Khaljis
(D) Marathas, Suris, Tughlaqs, Berar

59. The decline of which empire created the political vacuum that facilitated the rise of the Marathas and other regional powers?
(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Delhi Sultanate
(C) The Bahmani Sultanate
(D) The Mughal Empire

60. Consider the following statements about the Mughal Empire:
1. It was founded by Babur.
2. It was consolidated under Akbar.
3. It declined after Aurangzeb, during the period of Later Mughals.
4. It was succeeded directly by the Bahmani Sultanat(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) All of the above

61. Match the term in List I with its correct description in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Numismatics
Q. Epigraphy
R. Chronicles
S. Firmans
List II: (Description)
1. Study of inscriptions
2. Royal orders
3. Historical accounts in narrative form
4. Study of coins

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

62. The study of "Mughal-Maratha relations" focuses on the interaction between the empire consolidated by Akbar and his successors and the power established by whom?
(A) The Peshwas
(B) The Suryavamshi Gajapatis
(C) The Sayyid dynasty
(D) Shivaji and his successors

63. Which of the following is NOT typically recognized as a primary source of Medieval Indian history?
(A) Oral traditions and folklore
(B) Daftar Khannas
(C) Foreign Travellers' Accounts
(D) Epigraphic sources

64. The political history of the Delhi Sultanate begins with the Ghorids and ends with which dynasty?
(A) The Tughlaqs
(B) The Lodis
(C) The Khaljis
(D) The Sayyids

65. The period of the "Later Mughals" is primarily associated with:
(A) Imperial expansion

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46. Which of the following is considered an archaeological source of history?
(A) Chronicles
(B) Firmans
(C) Persian literary texts
(D) Monuments

47. Consider the following political entities:
1. The Ghorids
2. The Khaljis
3. The Sayyids
4. The Lodis
5. The Tughlaqs

Which of the following combinations correctly represents dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 2, 4, and 5 only

48. The rise of the Peshwas led to what significant development in Maratha history?
(A) The foundation of Swaraj
(B) The expansion of Maratha influence across India
(C) The decline and end of Maratha power
(D) The initial conflict with the Bahmani Sultanate

49. Identify the correct statement regarding the source materials for medieval India.
(A) Epigraphic sources and numismatic sources are both types of literary texts.
(B) Material evidences and monuments are part of archaeological sources.
(C) Persian and Sanskrit were the only languages used for literary sources.
(D) Foreign travellers' accounts provide an indigenous perspective.

50. The Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis are all part of the political history of which entity?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) The Mughal Empire
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Maratha Confederacy

51. Arrange the following Mughal emperors in the correct chronological order of their reign.
1. Akbar
2. Humayun
3. Babur
4. Aurangzeb

(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

52. The term 'Swaraj' as founded by Shivaji is best understood as an assertion of:
(A) Economic monopoly
(B) Cultural superiority
(C) Religious leadership
(D) Political sovereignty

53. Which of the following is identified as a key historical subject for study regarding Maratha power?
(A) Causes of its rapid rise
(B) Causes of its alliance with Mughals
(C) Causes of its Decline
(D) Causes of its conflict with Vijayanagara

54. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Bahmani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire were contemporary powers in the Deccan.
Statement II : The Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis were major powers in the Delhi region.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

55. The five Sultanates of Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar are collectively known as what?
(A) The Maratha Confederacy
(B) The Lodi Confederacy
(C) The Eastern Ganga alliance
(D) The Deccan Sultanates

56. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

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(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

75. Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence of power in Delhi?
(A) Lodis → Mughals → Suris
(B) Ghorids → Khaljis → Mughals
(C) Turks → Tughlaqs → Khaljis
(D) Tughlaqs → Sayyids → Lodis

76. Which one of these Deccan Sultanates is a recognized successor state of the Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Khandesh
(B) Bijapur
(C) Madurai
(D) Warangal

77. The rule of the Peshwas is associated with which major development in Maratha history?
(A) The foundation of Swaraj
(B) The initial struggle against the Bahmanis
(C) The expansion of Maratha power
(D) The decline of the Maratha Confederacy

78. Match the historical source in List I with its category in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Source)
P. A coin from Akbar's reign
Q. A Persian chronicle like 'Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi'
R. An inscription on the Qutub Minar
S. An account by a Persian traveller
List II: (Category)
1. Literary Source
2. Foreign Traveller's Account
3. Epigraphic Source
4. Numismatic Source
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

79. The term "Later Mughals" refers to the rulers who came after whom?
(A) Aurangzeb
(B) Babur
(C) Akbar
(D) Shah Jahan

80. Consider the following statements regarding political entities in Medieval India:
1. The Ghorids preceded the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate's main dynasties.
2. The Bahmanis and Vijayanagara were rival kingdoms in the Deccan.
3. The Suris ruled for a brief period, interrupting Mughal rul(E)
4. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a major power in Western Indi(A)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) All of the above

81. Which of the following is NOT a phase of Maratha history typically studied in the medieval context?
(A) Foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji
(B) Alliance with the Vijayanagara empire
(C) Expansion under the Peshwas
(D) Maratha Confederacy and its decline

82. The study of 'material evidences and monuments' falls under which broad category of historical sources?
(A) Archaeological
(B) Literary
(C) Numismatic
(D) Epigraphic

83. Which event marks the beginning of the Mughal Empire?
(A) The rule of the Suris
(B) The consolidation under Akbar
(C) The foundation by Babur
(D) The decline of the Delhi Sultanate

84. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Delhi Sultanate's history is organized by its successive dynasties: Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis.
Statement II : The decline of the Delhi Sultanate is historically analyzed as a separate, significant political development.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

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(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

85. Which of the following was NOT one of the five sultanates that arose from the disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom?
(A) Bidar
(B) Berar
(C) Khandesh
(D) Ahmadnagar

86. Arrange the following in the correct chronological order of their appearance as major political forces.
1. The Maratha Confederacy
2. The Khalji Dynasty
3. The Bahmani Sultanate
4. The Suri Dynasty
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

87. The analysis of "Mughal-Maratha relations" involves a study of the reigns of Mughal emperors starting from Shah Jahan and especially which later emperor?
(A) Babur
(B) Humayun
(C) Akbar
(D) Aurangzeb

88. Why are Babur, Humayun, and the Suris historically grouped together in the study of Mughal history?
(A) Their reigns form the foundational period of the empire
(B) They all belonged to the exact same royal dynasty
(C) They were contemporaries of the Vijayanagara peak
(D) They exclusively used Sanskrit for court chronicles

89. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The decline of the Mughal Empire was a complex process.
Reason (R) : The period of the "Later Mughals" and the "Disintegration of the Mughal Empire" represent distinct phases of this decline.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

90. The study of 'Firmans, Bahis / Pothis / Akhbarat' gives insight into what aspect of medieval states?
(A) The administrative and record-keeping mechanisms
(B) The architectural styles
(C) The metallurgical technology for coinage
(D) The epic poetry of regional bards

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91. The rise of the Marathas under Shivaji happened during the reign of which powerful Mughal emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Jahangir
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

92. Which statement accurately reflects the relationship between the Bahmani Sultanate and the five Deccan Sultanates?
(A) The Bahmani Sultanate conquered and unified the five Deccan Sultanates.
(B) The Bahmani Sultanate disintegrated, leading to the rise of the five Deccan Sultanates.
(C) The five Deccan Sultanates were a precursor to the Bahmani Sultanate.
(D) The Bahmani Sultanate and the five Deccan Sultanates existed independently and concurrently.

93. Persian and Arabic are languages identified with which specific source type in the study of medieval India?
(A) Chronicles
(B) Sanskrit Literature
(C) Foreign Travellers' Accounts
(D) Daftar Khannas

94. Which of the following dynasties ruled from Delhi immediately before the Mughals established their empire?
(A) The Khaljis
(B) The Tughlaqs
(C) The Sayyids
(D) The Lodis

95. Match the concept in List I with its description in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Concept)
P. Swaraj
Q. Maratha Confederacy
R. Deccan Sultanate
S. Later Mughals
List II: (Description)
1. Period of Mughal imperial decline
2. Independent Maratha sovereignty established by Shivaji
3. An alliance of Maratha chiefs under the Peshwa
4. A successor state of the Bahmani kingdom, (E)g., Bijapur
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

96. Identify the incorrect statement about the sources of Medieval Indian History.
(A) Chronicles are a form of literary source.
(B) Numismatics is the study of inscriptions.
(C) Monuments are considered archaeological evidence.
(D) Travellers' accounts from Persia and Arabia are valuable sources.

97. The term 'consolidation' in the context of the Mughal Empire from Akbar to Aurangzeb refers to:
(A) The initial establishment of the empire.
(B) The strengthening of administrative institutions and securing of territories.
(C) The beginning of the empire's decline.
(D) The temporary takeover by the Suris.

98. Consider the following statements about Medieval Indian polity:
1. The Delhi Sultanate was ruled by a single, unbroken dynasty.
2. The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were prominent in the Deccan.
3. The Maratha power was initially consolidated under the Peshwas.
4. The Mughal empire's disintegration is studied as a key political development.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 2, 3, and 4 only

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99. The Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis were important medieval dynasties of which region?
(A) The Deccan
(B) The Delhi heartland
(C) Eastern India
(D) The Malabar coast

100. The rise, expansion, and disintegration of Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar are key themes in the history of which region?
(A) North India after the Lodis
(B) Eastern India under the Gajapatis
(C) The Mughal empire under the Later Mughals
(D) The Deccan after the Bahmanis

101. Which ruler is credited with the foundation of the Mughal Empire in 1526?
(A) Humayun
(B) Sher Shah Suri
(C) Babur
(D) Akbar

102. The expansion of Maratha power under the Peshwas signifies a shift from:
(A) An empire to a small regional kingdom.
(B) A sovereign kingdom to pan-Indian ambition.
(C) A confederacy to a centralized monarchy.
(D) A land power to a naval power.

103. Which of the following is NOT part of the Delhi Sultanate's dynastic succession?
(A) The Turks
(B) The Khaljis
(C) The Sayyids

(D) The Mughals

104. Consider the following statements about the sources for medieval history:
1. Pothis and Bahis are examples of archival records.
2. Regional languages are considered unimportant literary sources.
3. Monuments provide no information about political developments.
4. Numismatic evidence is useful for establishing chronologies and the extent of kingdoms.
5. Chronicles were written only in Sanskrit.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 4 and 5 only
(D) 2, 3 and 5 only

105. The study of the causes of the decline of the Marathas would likely involve analyzing events such as:
(A) The foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji
(B) The consolidation of power by Baji Rao I
(C) The Third Battle of Panipat and internal rivalries
(D) The initial clashes between Shivaji and Aurangzeb

106. The Ghorid invasions were a precursor to the establishment of which political entity?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) The Mughal Empire
(C) The Bahmani Kingdom
(D) The Maratha Swaraj

107. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The period of the Suris is a significant part of the study of the Mughal Empire's foundation.
Reason (R) : The Suri interregnum directly impacted the reign of Humayun and influenced the administrative reforms later adopted by Akbar.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

108. The term 'Akhbarat' found in Daftar Khannas refers to:
(A) Royal edicts
(B) News reports or court bulletins
(C) Land revenue records
(D) Religious texts

109. Which of the following kingdoms was a contemporary and rival of the Bahmani Sultanate?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) The Mughal Empire
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Maratha Confederacy

110. The disintegration of the Mughal Empire is associated with the period of:
(A) Akbar to Aurangzeb
(B) Babur and Humayun
(C) The Suris
(D) The Later Mughals

111. Arrange the following entities in a logical chronological order based on their period of decline or disintegration.
1. Delhi Sultanate
2. Bahmani Sultanate
3. Mughal Empire

(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 2, 1, 3
(C) 1, 3, 2
(D) 3, 2, 1

112. The study of the Maratha Confederacy is primarily about:
(A) The reign of Shivaji
(B) Political structures after Peshwa expansion
(C) The early struggle of Marathas against Sultans
(D) The decline of the Peshwas' power

113. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Historical studies cover the political history of the Delhi Sultanate from the Ghorids to the Lodis.
Statement II : These studies also examine the

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factors leading to the subsequent decline of the Delhi Sultanate.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

114. The five sultanates of the Deccan (Bijapur, Golkonda, etc.) emerged from the fragmentation of which larger kingdom?
(A) The Bahmani Sultanate
(B) The Vijayanagara Empire
(C) The Eastern Ganga kingdom
(D) The Tughlaq Sultanate

115. Match the historical figure in List I with the political entity they are most associated with in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Figure)
P. Babur
Q. Alauddin Khalji
R. Shivaji
S. Krishnadevaraya
List II: (Entity)
1. Maratha Swaraj
2. Delhi Sultanate
3. Mughal Empire
4. Vijayanagara Empire
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

116. The transition from the Lodi dynasty to the Mughal Empire was a result of:
(A) A peaceful succession treaty
(B) The intervention of the Suris
(C) The disintegration of the Lodi kingdom into smaller states
(D) The Battle of Panipat where Babur defeated the Lodis

117. Which of the following is an example of a literary source?
(A) A silver coin of Iltutmish
(B) An inscription of Ashoka
(C) A Sanskrit text
(D) The ruins of Hampi

118. The period from Akbar to Aurangzeb is historically characterized as one of:
(A) Foundation and struggle
(B) Expansion and Consolidation
(C) Decline and Disintegration
(D) Later Mughals

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119. Identify the incorrect pair of a historical entity and its primary geographical location or sphere of influence.
(A) Suryavamshi Gajapatis – Eastern India
(B) Bahmanis – Deccan
(C) Lodis – Delhi
(D) Marathas – Bengal

120. Consider the following statements regarding the Deccan Sultanates:
1. It includes the study of Bijapur and Golkond(A)
2. It examines their rise after the Bahmanis.
3. It includes an analysis of their eventual disintegration.
4. It places them as rulers of the Delhi Sultanat(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

121. What does the term "Mughal-Maratha relations" historically imply?
(A) A history of constant warfare
(B) Friendship between Akbar and Shivaji
(C) Complex history of conflict and diplomacy
(D) Maratha acceptance of Mughal suzerainty

122. Which source would provide the most direct evidence of a ruler's name, title, and the year of minting?
(A) A numismatic source
(B) A chronicle
(C) A firman
(D) A traveller's account

162. The rise of the five Deccan Sultanates is a direct result of the disintegration of which power?
(A) The Bahmani Sultanate
(B) The Cholas
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Delhi Sultanate

163. Which of the following is NOT a literary source of history?
(A) Persian chronicles
(B) Sanskrit texts
(C) Epigraphic inscriptions
(D) Regional language texts

164. The reign of the 'Later Mughals' is best characterized as a period of:
(A) Strong centralized rule
(B) Religious tolerance and innovation
(C) Great architectural achievements
(D) Imperial fragmentation

165. Match the ruler or dynasty in List I with their contribution or key event in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Ruler/Dynasty)
P. Shivaji
Q. Babur
R. Akbar to Aurangzeb
S. Later Mughals
List II: (Contribution/Event)
1. Expansion and Consolidation of Mughal Empire
2. Foundation of Mughal Empire
3. Foundation of Swaraj
4. Disintegration of Mughal Empire
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

166. A historian wanting to study the day-to-day proceedings or news of the Mughal court would specifically look for which type of document from the Daftar Khannas?
(A) Firmans
(B) Akhbarat
(C) Bahis
(D) Pothis

167. Identify the correct chronological order of the founding of these political entities.
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

168. The Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis were important medieval dynasties of which present-day state?
(A) Odisha
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Karnataka
(D) Delhi

169. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Bahmanis and the Deccan Sultanates are historically studied as part of a continuous history of the Deccan region.
Statement II : The rise of the Deccan Sultanates is a direct consequence of the Bahmani kingdom's disintegration.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

170. Which event marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of the Mughal Empire?
(A) The First Battle of Panipat
(B) The Second Battle of Tarain
(C) The Battle of Talikota
(D) The Third Battle of Panipat

171. The study of Mughal-Maratha relations primarily concerns the interaction between the Mughals and the power founded by:
(A) The Peshwas
(B) The Gajapatis
(C) The Bahmanis
(D) Shivaji

172. Which of the following is identified as a specific subject of study regarding the end of Maratha dominance?

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(A) Vijayanagara Empire
(B) Maratha Empire
(C) Delhi Sultanate
(D) Mughal Empire

133. What is the primary difference between an epigraphic and a numismatic source?
(A) Epigraphy studies texts, while numismatics studies monuments.
(B) Epigraphy studies Persian sources, while numismatics studies Sanskrit sources.
(C) Epigraphy studies inscriptions, while numismatics studies coins.
(D) Epigraphy is archaeological, while numismatics is literary.

134. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The reign of Aurangzeb is part of the Mughal "Expansion and Consolidation" phase.
Statement II : The period after Aurangzeb is categorized as the era of "Later Mughals and Disintegration".
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

135. The study of the causes of Maratha decline is an exercise in understanding:
(A) The reasons for Shivaji's initial success.
(B) The conflict between the Marathas and the Vijayanagara empire.
(C) The administrative structure of the Peshwas.
(D) The factors that led to the end of their imperial dominance.

136. The Ghorids and the Turks are mentioned in the context of:
(A) The foundation of the Delhi Sultanate.
(B) The decline of the Mughal Empire.
(C) The rise of the Bahmani kingdom.
(D) The administration of the Marathas.

137. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the political situation in the Deccan during the medieval period?
(A) A single, unified empire throughout the period.
(B) Dominance of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals.
(C) Interplay of Vijayanagara, Bahmani, and successors.
(D) Peaceful and uncontested rule of the Marathas.

138. The inclusion of 'regional languages' in literary sources is important because:
(A) It provides perspectives away from the imperial court's official language.
(B) It shows that Persian was not used at all.
(C) It was the only source for political history.
(D) It helps in studying numismatics.

139. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The study of the Maratha Confederacy is crucial to understanding 18th-century Indian politics.
Reason (R) : The Confederacy represented a major political and military power that filled the vacuum created by the declining Mughal Empire.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

140. Which sequence correctly represents the flow of power in Delhi?
(A) Tughlaqs → Lodis → Sayyids
(B) Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Sayyids
(C) Ghorids → Lodis → Khaljis
(D) Sayyids → Tughlaqs → Lodis

141. The rise of Bijapur, Golkonda, and Ahmadnagar was a direct consequence of the:
(A) Decline of the Delhi Sultanate
(B) Fall of the Vijayanagara Empire
(C) Disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate
(D) Expansion of the Marathas

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(A) They were three succeeding dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate.
(B) They were allies who conquered Northern India together.
(C) Babur founded the empire, Humayun inherited it, and the Suris temporarily usurped it from Humayun.
(D) The Suris helped Babur establish his empire against Humayun.

202. Which source category would 'Firmans, Bahis / Pothis / Akhbarat' belong to?
(A) Daftar Khannas / Archival Records
(B) Epigraphic sources
(C) Numismatic sources
(D) Foreign Travellers' Accounts

203. The term 'Swaraj' in the context of Shivaji's actions implies:
(A) Administrative reform
(B) A new taxation system
(C) A religious-cultural movement
(D) Self-rule and sovereignty

204. The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom is to the Deccan Sultanates as the decline of the Mughal Empire is to the:
(A) Rise of the Delhi Sultanate.
(B) Rise of various regional powers, including the Marathas.
(C) Establishment of the Vijayanagara kingdom.
(D) Consolidation of power under Akbar.

205. Which of the following is NOT typically included in the study of the Marathas?
(A) Mughal-Maratha relations
(B) Maratha Confederacy
(C) Maratha-Vijayanagara conflict
(D) Expansion under the Peshwas

206. In historical context, the study of the Mughal Empire covers the period from its foundation by Babur to its:
(A) Consolidation under Akbar
(B) Expansion under Aurangzeb
(C) Zenith under Shah Jahan
(D) Disintegration under the Later Mughals

207. Which statement about the sources of Medieval Indian History is correct?
(A) Foreign travellers' accounts provide an external perspective.
(B) Chronicles are considered an archaeological source.
(C) Numismatics involves the study of written literary texts.
(D) Daftar Khannas only contained religious scriptures.

208. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The Bahmani and Vijayanagara kingdoms were major political forces in the Deccan.
Reason (R) : Their history is characterized by continuous rivalry and conflict, which shaped the political landscape of the region.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

209. The Eastern Gangas are mentioned in conjunction with which other dynasty of Eastern India?
(A) The Palas
(B) The Suryavamshi Gajapatis
(C) The Senas
(D) The Lodis

210. Consider the following dynasties:
1. Khaljis
2. Lodis
3. Tughlaqs
4. Sayyids

What is their correct chronological order of rule?
(A) 1, 3, 4, 2
(B) 3, 1, 4, 2
(C) 1, 4, 3, 2
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

211. Which of the following correctly pairs a ruler with their associated major event or phase?
(A) Aurangzeb - Foundation of the Mughal Empire
(B) Shivaji - Expansion under the Peshwas
(C) Humayun - Interruption by the Suris

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Peshwas.
(D) The rule of the Suryavamshi Gajapatis.

153. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Peshwas were responsible for the foundation of Maratha Swaraj.
Statement II : Shivaji laid the foundation of Swaraj, which was later expanded under the Peshwas.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both statements are correct and refer to the same event.
(D) Both statements are incorrect.

154. What is the significance of studying the "causes of decline" of the Marathas?
(A) It completes the historical arc of their rise, dominance, and eventual fall.
(B) It highlights their military weaknesses from the beginning.
(C) It proves they were less powerful than the Mughals.
(D) It focuses only on the period after Shivaji.

155. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : Historical studies distinguish between archaeological and literary sources for studying medieval India.
Reason (R) : Monuments and material evidences provide different types of information compared to chronicles and Sanskrit texts.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

156. The historical study of the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms is central to understanding the medieval period in:
(A) Eastern India
(B) The Deccan
(C) The Indo-Gangetic plain
(D) The far South

157. Which of the following lists contains only sources typically used in the study of medieval India?
(A) Chronicles, Firmans, Oral histories, Monuments
(B) Epigraphic sources, Numismatic sources, Akhbarat, Genetic reports
(C) Persian literary sources, Daftar Khannas, Bahis, Travellers' Accounts
(D) Sanskrit sources, Pothis, Monuments, Business contracts

158. The consolidation of the Mughal Empire is associated with the period from:
(A) Babur to Humayun
(B) Humayun to the Suris
(C) The Later Mughals
(D) Akbar to Aurangzeb

159. Consider the following statements about the political history of medieval India:
1. The Sayyids were a dynasty of the Delhi Sultanat(E)
2. The Suris ruled in the Deccan.
3. The Peshwas expanded the Maratha empir(E)
4. Golkonda was one of the Deccan Sultanates.
5. The Ghorids founded the Mughal empir(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 5 only
(B) 1, 3, and 4 only
(C) 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) 3, 4, and 5 only

160. The "Maratha Confederacy" was a political system that came into prominence during the time of:
(A) Shivaji
(B) The Peshwas
(C) The decline of the Delhi Sultanate
(D) The Bahmani kingdom

161. The term 'Daftar Khannas' implies the existence of what in medieval states?
(A) A system of religious education
(B) Sophisticated archive and record-keeping
(C) A network of spies
(D) A guild of merchants

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142. Following the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji, Maratha power underwent:
(A) Immediate decline
(B) Absorption into the Mughal empire
(C) A split into five sultanates
(D) Expansion under the Peshwas

143. Which of the following sources is archaeological in nature?
(A) Monuments
(B) Akhbarat
(C) Sanskrit Literature
(D) Pothis

144. Which of the following are all dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis, Suris
(B) Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, Lodis
(C) Tughlaqs, Lodis, Mughals, Marathas
(D) Sayyids, Lodis, Bahmanis, Ghorids

145. Match the term in List I with its most appropriate association in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Babur
Q. Ghorids
R. Shivaji
S. Bahmanis
List II: (Association)
1. Foundation of Delhi Sultanate
2. Foundation of Mughal Empire
3. Foundation of Swaraj
4. Deccan Sultanate's parent kingdom
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

146. A historian studying the official decrees of the Mughal emperors would be most interested in which source?
(A) Firmans from the Daftar Khannas
(B) Sanskrit literary sources
(C) Numismatic collections
(D) Arabic traveller's accounts

147. Consider the following statements about Medieval Indian history:
1. The Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire are treated as two distinct, major political developments.
2. The history of the Deccan is covered through the Vijayanagara, Bahmani, and subsequent Sultanates.
3. The rise of the Marathas is presented as a separate but interconnected phenomenon.
4. The sources of history provide the foundational evidence for these periods.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

148. The period of Humayun's reign was significantly challenged by the rise of:
(A) The Lodis
(B) The Bahmanis
(C) The Marathas
(D) The Suris

149. The 'disintegration of the Mughal Empire' is a process associated with which period?
(A) The reign of Akbar
(B) The period of the great Mughals until Aurangzeb
(C) The period of the Later Mughals
(D) The foundation period under Babur

150. Which one of the following was NOT a successor state to the Bahmani Kingdom?
(A) Bijapur
(B) Vijayanagara
(C) Golkonda
(D) Bidar

151. The establishment of Swaraj by Shivaji can be best described as:
(A) A reform movement within the Mughal administration.
(B) The formation of the Maratha confederacy.
(C) A religious movement.
(D) The creation of an independent Maratha state.

152. The study of the Delhi Sultanate's decline is logically followed by the study of:
(A) The establishment of the Mughal Empire.
(B) The rise of the Bahmani Kingdom.
(C) The expansion of the Marathas under the

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(A) The causes of the Ghorid invasions
(B) The causes of the decline of the Marathas
(C) The causes of the Khalji revolution
(D) The causes of the foundation of the Vijayanagara empire

173. The study of 'Bahis' and 'Pothis' would be most relevant for understanding:
(A) Military strategies.
(B) Architectural blueprints.
(C) Administrative and financial records.
(D) Diplomatic correspondence with foreign powers.

174. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The Suri dynasty, though short-lived, is a crucial component of medieval Indian history.
Reason (R) : Sher Shah Suri of the Suri dynasty established a strong administrative system that served as a model for future rulers, including the Mughals.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

175. The five entities Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar are best described as:
(A) The five successor states of the Bahmani Sultanate.
(B) The five core provinces of the Mughal Empire.
(C) The five clans of the Maratha Confederacy.
(D) The five dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate.

176. Which of the following represents a correct sequence within the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Tughlaq → Lodi → Khalji
(B) Khalji → Tughlaq → Sayyid
(C) Sayyid → Khalji → Tughlaq
(D) Lodi → Sayyid → Tughlaq

177. The 'foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji' was an event that directly challenged the authority of which two major powers in the Deccan?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate and the Gajapatis.
(B) The Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates (like Bijapur).
(C) The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms.
(D) The Later Mughals and the Peshwas.

178. Which of the following is recognized as a primary source providing an external viewpoint on Medieval India?
(A) Persian and Arabic travellers' accounts
(B) Sanskrit literary works
(C) Daftar Khannas
(D) Material evidences

179. The term 'Suryavamshi Gajapatis' indicates a dynasty that was prominent in which part of India?
(A) The Deccan plateau
(B) The western coast
(C) The eastern coast (Orissa region)
(D) The northern plains near Delhi

180. Consider the following statements regarding the political entities in Medieval India:
1. The Lodis were the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanat(E)
2. The Bahmani Sultanate was a major power in the Deccan.
3. The Maratha Confederacy was led by Shivaji.
4. Aurangzeb's reign is considered part of the 'Later Mughals' perio(D)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) All of the above

181. What was the most significant political outcome of the disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom?
(A) The rise of the Mughal Empire.
(B) The foundation of the Vijayanagara Empire.
(C) The emergence of five independent Deccan Sultanates.
(D) The expansion of the Marathas under Shivaji.

182. A scholar studying the architecture of the Qutb Minar or the city of Fatehpur Sikri is relying on what kind of historical source?
(A) Numismatic

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(B) Archaeological (Monuments/Material evidences)
(C) Epigraphic
(D) Literary

183. The rule of the Peshwas is associated with the _____ of Maratha power.
(A) foundation
(B) initial decline
(C) disintegration
(D) expansion

184. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Historical narratives outline the history of the Mughal Empire from its foundation by Babur to its disintegration under the Later Mughals.
Statement II : The reign of the Suris is historically placed within this Mughal timeline as an interruption.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

185. The political history of the Delhi Sultanate concludes with the study of its decline, which sets the stage for the invasion by whom?
(A) Muhammad Ghori
(B) Shivaji
(C) Babur
(D) Aurangzeb

186. Which dynasty is NOT associated with the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Suri
(B) Tughlaq
(C) Lodi
(D) Khalji

187. The study of 'Mughal-Maratha relations' is essentially an analysis of the dynamics between:
(A) Two empires in North and South India respectively.
(B) A declining Sultanate and a rising regional power.
(C) Two Deccan Sultanates.
(D) An established empire (Mughal) and a newly emergent power (Maratha).

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188. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : Foreign travellers' accounts are a valuable source for the history of medieval India.
Reason (R) : They provide an outsider's perspective, often recording details of society and customs that local chronicles might have taken for granted.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

189. The foundation, expansion, and disintegration of the Deccan Sultanates like Bijapur and Golkonda are studied in the context of the history of:
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) Eastern India
(C) The Deccan region
(D) The Maratha Confederacy

190. Which of the following statements about the sources of Medieval Indian history is incorrect?
(A) Firmans and Akhbarat were part of official records.
(B) Literary sources include texts in Persian, Sanskrit, and regional languages.
(C) Monuments and material evidences are forms of archaeological sources.
(D) Numismatic sources are primarily concerned with inscriptions on buildings.

191. Historical evidence suggests a period of decline and political fragmentation following the reign of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Aurangzeb
(B) Babur
(C) Akbar
(D) Shah Jahan

192. Which of the following are all successor states of the Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Bidar, Berar, Ahmadnagar, Delhi
(B) Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar
(C) Bijapur, Golkonda, Berar, Gujarat
(D) Berar, Bidar, Ahmadnagar, Vijayanagara

193. Match the event in List I with the associated historical figure in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Event)
P. Foundation of the Mughal Empire
Q. Interruption of Mughal rule
R. Foundation of Maratha Swaraj
S. Expansion of Maratha power
List II: (Figure)
1. Sher Shah Suri
2. Shivaji
3. The Peshwas
4. Babur
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

194. The concept of the 'Maratha Confederacy' implies a shift in political organization from:
(A) A kingdom under Shivaji to a league of chieftains under the Peshwa.
(B) A loose alliance to a strong monarchy under Shivaji.
(C) A feudatory state of the Mughals to full independence.
(D) A Deccan power to a North Indian empire.

195. Consider the following statements:
1. The Ghorids are considered part of the Delhi Sultanate's political developments.
2. The Suris are studied in the context of the Mughal Empire's foundation.
3. The disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate is a key historical topi(C)
4. The causes of the decline of the Mughals represent a significant area of study.
5. Shivaji is credited with founding the Maratha Confederacy.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 2, 3, and 5 only
(C) 1, 4, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, and 4 only

196. The study of the Suryavamshi Gajapatis provides insight into the history of which region during the medieval period?
(A) The Deccan
(B) Western India
(C) The Gangetic Valley
(D) Eastern India

197. The term "decline" is historically associated with the final phases of which three entities?
(A) Vijayanagara, Bahmanis, Mughals
(B) Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis
(C) Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire, Marathas
(D) Marathas, Peshwas, Suris

198. The most logical starting point for a study of the Delhi Sultanate's political history would be:
(A) The Lodis
(B) The Ghorids and Turks
(C) The Tughlaqs
(D) The Khaljis

199. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : 'Akhbarat' were royal proclamations equivalent to 'Firmans'.
Statement II : 'Akhbarat' were news reports or bulletins, distinct from the royal orders or 'Firmans', though both were part of the state's official papers.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is an incorrect version.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is the correct explanation.
(C) Both statements are correct and mean the same thing.
(D) Both statements are incorrect.

200. The rise of the Marathas under Shivaji presented a significant challenge to the authority of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Aurangzeb
(B) Akbar
(C) Jahangir
(D) Bahadur Shah Zafar

201. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the relationship between Babur, Humayun, and the Suris?

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123. The 'decline' of the Delhi Sultanate involves a study of the factors leading to the weakening of which dynasty's rule, paving the way for Babur?
(A) The Tughlaqs
(B) The Khaljis
(C) The Sayyids
(D) The Lodis

124. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The history of the Marathas includes a study of the causes of their decline.
Reason (R) : Maratha power eventually weakened and collapsed, and understanding the reasons for this is historically significant.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

125. The foundation of the Vijayanagara empire is a key political development in which region?
(A) Northern India
(B) Eastern India
(C) The Deccan
(D) Western India

126. The study of 'Persian and Arabic' travellers' accounts helps in:
(A) Understanding Muslim religious history only.
(B) Deciphering Sultanate epigraphic records.
(C) Reconstructing regional language grammar.
(D) Obtaining external perspectives on local events.

127. Which of the following statements about the Suris is correct?
(A) They interrupted the rule of the Mughal emperor Humayun.
(B) They were the first dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) They were a major power in the Deccan, rivals to Vijayanagara.
(D) They succeeded the Lodis and were defeated by the Tughlaqs.

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128. Match the dynasty in List I with the broader political group it belongs to in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Khalji
Q. Suri
R. Gajapati
S. Peshwa
List II: (Political Group)
1. Regional Kingdom (Eastern India)
2. Maratha Polity
3. Delhi Sultanate
4. Mughal Interregnum
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

129. The concept of a "Maratha Confederacy" suggests a political structure that was:
(A) Highly centralized and unitary.
(B) Decentralized with multiple power centers.
(C) Ruled directly by the Mughal emperor.
(D) An alliance of Deccan Sultanates.

130. Consider the following political developments:
1. Foundation of the Mughal Empir(E)
2. Decline of the Delhi Sultanat(E)
3. Rise of the Marathas.
4. Disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanat(E)
5. Consolidation of the Mughal Empire under Akbar.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
(D) 2, 3 and 5 only

131. The Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis were significant powers in which geographical context?
(A) Contemporary to the early Delhi Sultans in the North.
(B) As successor states to the Bahmani kingdom.
(C) As major regional powers in Eastern India.
(D) As part of the Maratha Confederacy.

132. The term "disintegration" is associated with the final phases of both the Bahmani Sultanate and which other major empire?

(D) Babur - Consolidation of the Mughal Empire

212. The term "Maratha Confederacy" implies a political structure that was:
(A) More centralized than the Mughal empire under Akbar.
(B) A direct vassal state of the Later Mughals.
(C) An alliance between Marathas and Deccan Sultanates.
(D) More decentralized than Shivaji's initial kingdom.

213. A 'Firman' is best defined as:
(A) A historical chronicle
(B) A coin
(C) A royal command or order
(D) A traveller's diary

214. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The history of the Mughal Empire is often treated as a single, continuous narrative from 1526 to 1857.
Statement II : Historical study typically breaks down Mughal history into phases: Foundation (Babur, Humayun, Suris), Expansion/ Consolidation (Akbar to Aurangzeb), Decline, and Disintegration (Later Mughals).
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is an incorrect analysis.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II provides the correct breakdown.
(C) Both statements are essentially correct.
(D) Both statements are incorrect.

215. The decline of the Delhi Sultanate under the Lodis created a power vacuum in North India, which was filled by the:
(A) Marathas
(B) Bahmanis
(C) Gajapatis
(D) Mughals

216. Which of the following is NOT one of the five Deccan Sultanates that emerged from the Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Warangal
(B) Golkonda
(C) Bidar
(D) Berar

217. The study of the expansion of the Marathas under the Peshwas focuses on the period:
(A) Before Shivaji.
(B) During Shivaji's reign.
(C) After Shivaji's initial foundation of Swaraj.
(D) After the Maratha Confederacy had declined.

218. What do epigraphy, numismatics, and monuments have in common?
(A) They are all primary, non-literary (archaeological) sources.
(B) They are all forms of literary sources.
(C) They are all found in Daftar Khannas.
(D) They are all written in Persian.

219. The topic "Later Mughals and Disintegration of the Mughal Empire" focuses on the period after which ruler?
(A) Akbar
(B) Shah Jahan
(C) Babur
(D) Aurangzeb

220. Consider the following sources of history:
1. Chronicles
2. Firmans
3. Foreign Travellers' Accounts
4. Monuments
5. Numismatic evidences

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 5 only
(C) 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

221. The rivalry between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was a defining feature of medieval politics in:
(A) The Gangetic plains
(B) Eastern India
(C) The Deccan
(D) The Punjab

222. The term "consolidation" in the phrase "Expansion and Consolidation from Akbar to Aurangzeb" implies:
(A) The beginning of decline.
(B) The founding of a new dynasty.
(C) The temporary loss of power.
(D) The building of strong administrative and

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(A) Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb
(B) Babur and Humayun
(C) Akbar and Jahangir
(D) The Later Mughals

243. The "foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji" was a direct challenge to the sovereignty of:
(A) The Delhi Sultanate
(B) The Vijayanagara Empire
(C) The Mughal Empire and Deccan Sultanates
(D) The British East India Company

244. A document from a 'Daftar Khannas' that contains a royal order would be called a:
(A) Bahi
(B) Pothi
(C) Akhbarat
(D) Firman

245. Match the dynasty in List I to its founder or most significant early figure in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Delhi Sultanate (Turkish)
Q. Mughal
R. Maratha
S. Suri
List II: (Figure)
1. Babur
2. Sher Shah
3. Qutb-ud-din Aibak
4. Shivaji
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

246. The topic of the "Later Mughals" is closely associated with the "Disintegration of the Mughal Empire," suggesting:
(A) The two are unrelated.
(B) The rule of the Later Mughals was a period characterized by disintegration.
(C) The disintegration happened before the Later Mughals.
(D) The Later Mughals successfully stopped the disintegration.

247. Which of the following is an incorrect chronological sequence?
(A) Ghorids → Khaljis → Tughlaqs
(B) Babur → Humayun → Akbar
(C) Shivaji → Peshwas → Maratha Confederacy
(D) Bahmani Sultanate → Deccan Sultanates → Vijayanagara Empire

248. The study of the causes of Maratha decline focuses on the factors that weakened the:
(A) Maratha Confederacy that existed under the Peshwas.
(B) Initial Swaraj founded by Shivaji.
(C) Maratha relationship with the Bahmani kingdom.
(D) Maratha armies during Akbar's reign.

249. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Numismatic sources like coins are useful for determining the names of rulers and their regnal periods.
Statement II : Epigraphic sources like inscriptions on temple walls or pillars can provide information on royal proclamations or donations.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

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250. The political history of Medieval India generally presents a narrative of:
(A) The rise and fall of successive large-scale empires and regional powers.
(B) A single, continuous, and stable empire across the entire period.
(C) The history of South India exclusively during the medieval era.
(D) A period with no significant political or administrative changes.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The reconstruction of medieval Indian history relies upon a diverse and complex array of source materials, each presenting unique insights and interpretive challenges. Archaeological sources, including material evidences and monuments,

(A) Statement I is a more accurate description.
(B) Statement II is a more accurate description.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are equally accurate.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are completely inaccurate.

233. The relationship between the Bahmani Sultanate and the five Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, etc.) was one of:
(A) Rivals at the same time
(B) A whole and its parts existing simultaneously
(C) Predecessor and successor
(D) Two unrelated entities in different regions

234. The inclusion of Persian, Sanskrit, and Regional languages under 'Literary sources' highlights the:
(A) Linguistic diversity of the source material.
(B) Uniformity of language in medieval India.
(C) Exclusive use of Persian for all records.
(D) Absence of written records during the period.

235. The Maratha Confederacy is associated with the period of Maratha:
(A) Foundation under Shivaji
(B) Initial struggles against Bijapur
(C) Final defeat by the Mughals under Aurangzeb
(D) Peak expansion and subsequent decentralization

236. Which of the following is NOT a category of historical source commonly used to study medieval India?
(A) Epigraphic
(B) Hagiographical
(C) Numismatic
(D) Archaeological

237. The phrase "from Akbar to Aurangzeb" defines the period of Mughal:
(A) Foundation
(B) Decline
(C) Expansion and Consolidation
(D) Disintegration

238. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The study of medieval India typically begins with a discussion of sources.
Reason (R) : Understanding the nature, biases, and limitations of historical sources is fundamental to the study of history itself.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

239. The political story of the Delhi Sultanate begins with the Ghorids and ends with the defeat of which dynasty by Babur?
(A) The Lodis
(B) The Sayyids
(C) The Tughlaqs
(D) The Khaljis

240. Consider the following statements:
1. The rule of the Suris is presented as an interregnum within the Mughal perio(D)
2. The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms are grouped as major Deccan powers.
3. The expansion of Maratha power under the Peshwas is a key historical topi(C)
4. The decline of the Mughal Empire is historically documented as a significant process.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

241. The history of Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar is primarily a study of:
(A) The provinces of the Vijayanagara empire.
(B) The successor states of the Bahmani kingdom.
(C) The main administrative centers of the Delhi Sultanate.
(D) The constituent parts of the Maratha Confederacy.

242. "Mughal-Maratha relations" as a topic primarily concerns the interactions during the reigns of which Mughal emperors?

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278. The passage suggests a major paradox in Aurangzeb's reign, which is that:
(A) he focused on art and architecture despite being at war.
(B) the empire reached its greatest territorial size while the factors for its decline were intensified.
(C) he promoted religious pluralism while simultaneously being an orthodox Muslim.
(D) his treasury was overflowing despite his costly military campaigns.

279. According to the text, a key difference between the policies of Akbar and Aurangzeb was:
(A) Akbar's focus on military expansion versus Aurangzeb's focus on administration.
(B) Akbar's patronage of art versus Aurangzeb's complete disregard for it.
(C) Akbar's policy of religious pluralism versus Aurangzeb's more orthodox approach.
(D) Akbar's establishment of the Mansabdari system versus Aurangzeb's abolition of it.

280. Which of the following is identified as a factor that strained the Mughal empire during Aurangzeb's rule?
(A) The reduction of the empire's territory
(B) The cessation of all military campaigns
(C) The promotion of the 'Sulh-i-Kul' policy
(D) The long and expensive Deccan wars

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In the Deccan, the fourteenth century witnessed the rise of two major powers, the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate, whose histories were inextricably linked through continuous rivalry and intermittent warfare. Founded in the southern Deccan by Harihara and Bukka, the Vijayanagara Empire emerged as a bastion of Hindu culture and political power, successfully resisting the northward expansion of the Delhi Sultanate's influence. The empire reached its zenith under rulers like Krishnadevaraya, who was a great military leader and a patron of art, architecture, and literature, particularly in Telugu and Sanskrit. Contemporaneously, to the north of the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab, the Bahmani Sultanate was established by Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah, a rebel governor of the Tughlaqs. As a Shia Muslim state in a predominantly Sunni region, it developed a unique composite culture, heavily influenced by Persian immigrants—nobles, scholars, and artists. The political landscape of the Deccan for over two centuries was dominated by the struggle between these two powers for control over fertile territories like the Raichur doab and strategic ports on the coastline. This conflict was not purely religious but was driven by complex geopolitical and economic considerations, shaping the region's distinct political and cultural trajectory, separate from that of northern India.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. According to the passage, the political landscape of the Deccan for two centuries was primarily shaped by:
(A) the continuous struggle between Vijayanagara and the Bahmanis for territory and resources.
(B) the harmonious cooperation between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms.
(C) the complete dominance of the Delhi Sultanate over the entire region.
(D) the cultural and political isolation of the two empires from each other.

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282. The foundation of the Bahmani Sultanate was a direct result of:
(A) an alliance with the Vijayanagara Empire.
(B) a rebellion against the Tughlaq dynasty of Delhi.
(C) a successful Persian invasion of the Deccan.
(D) a directive from the Delhi Sultan to establish a southern capital.

283. The passage highlights Krishnadevaraya as a significant ruler of Vijayanagara primarily for his:
(A) role in the founding of the empire alongside Harihara and Bukka.
(B) patronage of arts and literature and his military leadership.
(C) successful negotiation of a permanent peace with the Bahmani Sultanate.
(D) conversion to the Shia faith to foster better relations with the Bahmanis.

284. What was a distinctive feature of the Bahmani Sultanate's culture as described in the text?

offer tangible proof of settlement patterns, technological advancements, and architectural styles, providing a physical context for the events described in textual records. Complementing these are epigraphic and numismatic sources; inscriptions on stone and copper plates often document land grants, royal proclamations, and genealogies, while coins are invaluable for establishing chronologies, mapping the extent of kingdoms, and understanding economic conditions and metallurgical skills. Literary sources form a vast repository of information, divisible into distinct categories. Chronicles, predominantly in Persian, such as those by Ziauddin Barani or Abul Fazl, offer court-centric narratives of political events, though they must be critically evaluated for their inherent biases. Sanskrit and regional language texts provide alternative perspectives, often focusing on local dynasties, religious movements, or social customs, thereby balancing the dominant Persian historiography. Furthermore, the administrative archives, or Daftar Khannas, containing official documents like Firmans (royal orders), Bahis/ Pothis (ledgers/books), and Akhbarat (news reports), furnish granular details about the functioning of the state. Lastly, the accounts of foreign travellers, particularly from the Persian and Arabic-speaking world, offer an external viewpoint on the politics, society, and culture of the time, often noting aspects that local chroniclers took for granted.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, which source category is most likely to provide direct information about the state's economic policies and revenue collection at a micro-level?
(A) Persian chronicles detailing dynastic histories
(B) Daftar Khannas containing Bahis and Firmans
(C) Foreign travellers' accounts describing courtly life
(D) Sanskrit texts focusing on religious movements

252. The passage suggests that a historian relying solely on Persian chronicles for understanding medieval India would likely encounter which of the following limitations?
(A) A perspective that is predominantly court-centric and potentially biased
(B) A complete absence of chronological data for political events
(C) A narrative that overemphasizes technological advancements
(D) A focus on regional languages to the exclusion of Sanskrit

253. What is the primary value of numismatic sources as described in the text?
(A) To understand the complete social customs of a period
(B) To provide a detailed narrative of military campaigns
(C) To help establish timelines and understand economic conditions
(D) To offer insights into religious philosophies of the court

254. Based on the passage, how do Sanskrit and regional language sources contribute to the study of medieval Indian history?
(A) They exclusively corroborate the information found in Persian texts.
(B) They are primarily useful for studying the accounts of foreign travellers.
(C) They provide the only reliable information on architectural styles.
(D) They offer alternative perspectives by focusing on local and non-courtly subjects.

255. The passage implies that the study of material evidences and monuments is crucial for:
(A) understanding the biases inherent in court-centric narratives.
(B) deciphering the content of royal orders and news reports.
(C) providing a physical context for events described in textual records.
(D) analyzing the metallurgical skills used exclusively in coinage.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate was not a singular event but a process initiated by the Ghorid invasions of the late twelfth century. Following the campaigns of Muhammad of Ghor,

political structures.

223. Identify the incorrect statement.
(A) The Suris established an empire in the Deccan.
(B) The Lodis were the last dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) The Bahmani kingdom disintegrated into five sultanates.
(D) Shivaji is credited with the foundation of Swaraj.

224. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option:
Assertion (A) : The study of causes for the Maratha decline is an important historical subject.
Reason (R) : Understanding the reasons for the fall of a major power like the Marathas provides crucial insights into the political dynamics of 18th and early 19th century India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

225. Which one of the following is a key theme of the study of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) A single, unbroken line of Tughlaq rulers.
(B) The succession of various dynasties and the eventual decline.
(C) Its rivalry with the Marathas.
(D) Its disintegration into five smaller sultanates.

226. The study of literary sources in regional languages is important for a more:
(A) Comprehensive and grassroots-level perspective.
(B) Imperial and top-down view of history.
(C) Centralized and uniform understanding.
(D) Simplified and singular narrative.

227. The Ghorid invasions in the late 12th century led directly to the:
(A) Foundation of the Mughal Empire.
(B) Rise of the Vijayanagara kingdom.
(C) Establishment of the Turkish rule in Delhi.
(D) Disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom.

228. Match the entity in List I with its geographical or political context in List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Entity)
P. Suryavamshi Gajapatis
Q. Deccan Sultanates
R. Later Mughals
S. Delhi Sultanate
List II: (Context)
1. Successor states of the Bahmani Kingdom
2. Rulers of a disintegrating pan-Indian empire
3. A pre-Mughal North Indian empire
4. A regional power in Eastern India
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

229. Historical study of the Marathas covers the period from the foundation of Swaraj to:
(A) Their victory over the Mughals.
(B) The establishment of the Maratha Confederacy.
(C) The factors leading to their eventual decline.
(D) The expansion under the Peshwas only.

230. The period of the Suris, who ruled between Humayun and Akbar, can be termed as:
(A) A Lodi revival
(B) An Afghan interregnum
(C) A Deccan Sultanate
(D) A Later Mughal dynasty

231. Which of the following is the best description of a 'Chronicle'?
(A) A coin issued by a king.
(B) An inscription carved on a pillar.
(C) A royal decree issued by a Sultan or Emperor.
(D) A written, narrative account of historical events, often in chronological order.

232. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The decline of the Delhi Sultanate was a sudden event caused by Babur's invasion.
Statement II : The decline of the Delhi Sultanate was a process of weakening that culminated in the Lodi dynasty's defeat by Babur.

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affordable price level. Following the Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, especially Muhammad bin Tughlaq, embarked on ambitious and innovative, yet often disastrous, projects. His decision to transfer the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad was aimed at better controlling the Deccan, but the forced and poorly managed relocation caused immense hardship. Similarly, his experiment with 'token currency', introducing brass and copper coins with the same value as silver tankas, was theoretically sound but failed spectacularly due to widespread counterfeiting, which the state could not prevent. These episodes highlight a period of immense state power and ambition, where rulers sought to fundamentally reshape the Sultanate's economic and political geography, albeit with mixed and sometimes catastrophic results.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What was the primary motivation behind Alauddin Khalji's implementation of economic regulations, as stated in the passage?
(A) To promote free trade with foreign territories
(B) To prepare for the transfer of the capital to Daulatabad
(C) To encourage the widespread counterfeiting of currency
(D) To support a large standing army and control inflation

262. The passage suggests that the failure of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's 'token currency' was primarily due to:
(A) the inherent lack of value in brass and copper.
(B) the inability of the state to prevent mass counterfeiting.
(C) a popular refusal to accept any currency other than silver.
(D) a sudden drop in the supply of silver tankas.

263. Which of the following best describes a key difference between the policies of Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq as presented in the text?
(A) Khalji focused on economic control, while Tughlaq focused exclusively on military expansion.
(B) Khalji's policies were innovative, while Tughlaq's were traditional and conservative.
(C) Khalji's market reforms were largely successful, while Tughlaq's major projects were often disastrous.
(D) Khalji aimed to control the Deccan, while Tughlaq's ambitions were limited to northern India.

264. The term 'Shahna-i-Mandi' in the context of Alauddin Khalji's reign refers to:
(A) the policy of transferring the capital.
(B) the head of the standing army.
(C) the system of introducing token currency.
(D) the institution of a regulated market.

265. An inference that can be drawn from the passage about the reigns of the Khaljis and Tughlaqs is that:
(A) rulers possessed significant power to attempt large-scale socio-economic changes.
(B) state intervention in the economy was minimal and always unsuccessful.
(C) the Delhi Sultanate was consistently stable and faced no administrative challenges.
(D) military conquests ceased entirely during the Tughlaq dynasty.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

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The decline of the Delhi Sultanate was a protracted process that began during the later years of the Tughlaq dynasty and culminated in its overthrow by the Mughals. The vastness of the empire under Muhammad bin Tughlaq became a liability, as his ambitious projects and harsh policies fueled discontent and rebellion in the provinces, leading to the emergence of independent kingdoms like the Bahmani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire. His successor, Firoz Shah Tughlaq, adopted a policy of appeasement towards the nobility and the ulema, which temporarily ensured stability but weakened the central authority in the long run by reviving the jagir system and making positions hereditary. The final blow to Tughlaq power came with the invasion of Timur in 1398, which left Delhi devastated and the Sultanate in a state of anarchy. In the ensuing political vacuum, the Sayyid dynasty (1414-1451) held nominal authority over Delhi and its environs, but their rule was largely ineffective. Real power shifted to regional Afghan chieftains, culminating in the rise of the Lodis, an Afghan dynasty. While the Lodis,

his Turkic slave-generals were left to consolidate the conquered territories in northern India. The death of Muhammad of Ghor in 1206 created a power vacuum that was effectively filled by his lieutenant, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who established a sovereign sultanate with its capital initially at Lahore and later at Delhi. This marked the formal beginning of the rule of the so-called Slave dynasty, or the early Turks. The nascent state faced considerable challenges, including threats from other Ghorid commanders, resistance from vanquished Rajput chieftains, and the formidable Mongol presence on the northwestern frontier. The task of giving the Sultanate a stable institutional and administrative framework fell to Iltutmish, who is often considered the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate. He not only secured the throne from rivals but also established a new ruling class of Turkic nobles, known as the 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani' or the 'Group of Forty', and introduced a standardized currency. The consolidation of Turkic power was thus a gradual process of military conquest, political maneuvering, and administrative innovation against a backdrop of persistent internal and external threats.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. According to the passage, who is often regarded as the 'real founder' of the Delhi Sultanate due to his administrative and institutional contributions?
(A) Muhammad of Ghor
(B) Iltutmish
(C) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
(D) A member of the Turkan-i-Chahalgani

257. The passage states that the 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani' was:
(A) a group of Rajput chieftains who resisted the Sultanate.
(B) a Mongol faction threatening the northwestern frontier.
(C) a council of Ghorid commanders vying for power.
(D) a new ruling class of Turkic nobles created by Iltutmish.

258. Which of the following is presented in the passage as a major challenge faced by the early Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The combination of internal resistance and external threats like the Mongols
(B) The decline in trade due to a non-standardized currency
(C) The lack of any prior military experience among the Turkic generals
(D) The absence of a capital city for administrative purposes

259. What event directly precipitated the establishment of a sovereign sultanate by Qutb-ud-din Aibak?
(A) The defeat of Rajput chieftains in a major battle
(B) The successful introduction of a standardized currency
(C) The death of Muhammad of Ghor
(D) The relocation of the capital from Lahore to Delhi

260. The passage implies that the transition from Ghorid conquest to the Delhi Sultanate was characterized by:
(A) a period of consolidation and institution-building by Turkic slave-generals.
(B) a peaceful transfer of power to local Indian rulers.
(C) the immediate establishment of a stable and unchallenged empire.
(D) a complete withdrawal of all Turkic forces from India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Delhi Sultanate witnessed significant phases of expansion and administrative experimentation, particularly under the Khalji and Tughlaq dynasties. Alauddin Khalji's reign was marked by an aggressive imperial policy, leading to extensive military conquests in both northern and southern India. To support his large standing army and to curb inflation, he implemented a revolutionary set of economic regulations, including direct grain collection, price controls on essential commodities, and the creation of a regulated market (Shahna-i-Mandi). These measures, though often enforced with great severity, were largely successful in maintaining a stable and

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(A) numerical superiority over the Lodi army.
(B) alliance with the Rajput confederacy.
(C) advanced military tactics and use of firearms.
(D) prior administrative experience in India.

272. What was the most significant outcome of the rise of Sher Shah Suri?
(A) The permanent end of Mughal rule in India
(B) The introduction of crucial administrative and revenue reforms
(C) A long-term alliance between the Afghans and the Persians
(D) The immediate consolidation of Humayun's imperial power

273. According to the passage, Humayun's reign was characterized by:
(A) a period of peace and administrative stability.
(B) successful expansion of the empire without any challenges.
(C) the rejection of all administrative systems of his predecessors.
(D) constant struggles, loss of the throne, and eventual restoration.

274. The passage implies that the administrative groundwork laid by Sher Shah Suri was:
(A) later adopted and built upon by the Mughal Empire under Akbar.
(B) completely dismantled by Humayun upon his return.
(C) irrelevant to the subsequent Mughal administration.
(D) a direct copy of the administrative system of the Delhi Sultanate.

275. The term 'tulughma' as mentioned in the text refers to:
(A) a type of gunpowder firearm.
(B) a land revenue assessment system.
(C) a military flanking strategy.
(D) a standardized silver coin.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The consolidation of the Mughal Empire from the reign of Akbar to that of Aurangzeb represents a period of profound administrative structuring, territorial expansion, and cultural efflorescence. Akbar's long reign was pivotal; he established the empire's institutional pillars through the Mansabdari system, a graded hierarchical structure for the nobility that combined civil and military responsibilities, and the Zabti system for land revenue assessment. His policy of 'Sulh-i-Kul' (absolute peace) aimed at fostering harmony among different religious communities, which was crucial for the stability of a diverse empire. This process of expansion and consolidation was continued by his successors, Jahangir and Shah Jahan, under whom Mughal art and architecture reached their zenith. The reign of Aurangzeb, however, marked a critical turning point. While the empire expanded to its maximum territorial extent under him, encompassing almost the entire subcontinent, his long and costly Deccan campaigns, coupled with a perceived shift away from the pluralistic policies of his predecessors, placed immense strain on the imperial treasury and polity. His reimposition of the jizya and destruction of some temples alienated significant sections of the non-Muslim population. Thus, Aurangzeb's reign embodies a paradox: it was the peak of Mughal territorial power, yet it simultaneously sowed the seeds of the empire's eventual decline and disintegration.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

NODIA

276. What was the primary purpose of the Mansabdari system introduced by Akbar?
(A) To create a graded hierarchy for the nobility with civil and military roles
(B) To promote a single state religion across the empire
(C) To fund the construction of architectural marvels during his reign
(D) To exclusively manage the collection of the jizya tax

277. The policy of 'Sulh-i-Kul' is best described as an attempt to:
(A) expand the empire's territory into the Deccan.
(B) establish a uniform legal code for all citizens.
(C) centralize the collection of land revenue.
(D) foster harmony among different religious groups.

particularly Sikandar Lodi, managed to restore some prestige and control, their power structure was essentially a confederacy of Afghan nobles, which was prone to internal strife and rebellion. This inherent weakness was exploited by Babur, leading to the defeat of Ibrahim Lodi at the Battle of Panipat in 1526 and the end of the Sultanate.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. According to the passage, what was a long-term consequence of Firoz Shah Tughlaq's policy of appeasement?
(A) It strengthened the central authority of the Sultanate.
(B) It weakened the Sultanate's central control over time.
(C) It led to the immediate invasion of Timur.
(D) It prevented the emergence of independent provincial kingdoms.

267. The passage identifies the invasion of Timur in 1398 as a pivotal event that:
(A) led to the establishment of the Lodi dynasty.
(B) left Delhi devastated and accelerated the Sultanate's disintegration.
(C) strengthened the Tughlaq dynasty's hold on power.
(D) temporarily restored the prestige of the Sultanate.

268. What fundamental weakness of the Lodi power structure is highlighted in the text?
(A) Its nature as a confederacy of Afghan nobles prone to infighting
(B) Its excessive reliance on a centralized bureaucracy
(C) Its failure to restore any degree of control over Delhi
(D) Its policy of appeasing the non-Afghan nobility

269. Which dynasty ruled immediately after the Tughlaqs but held only nominal and ineffective authority?
(A) The Khalji dynasty
(B) The Lodi dynasty
(C) The Sayyid dynasty
(D) The Suri dynasty

270. The passage suggests that the decline of the Delhi Sultanate was caused by a combination of factors, including:
(A) a lack of military ambition and the absence of provincial rebellions.
(B) the successful policies of Muhammad bin Tughlaq and a strong nobility.
(C) the rise of the Marathas and the policies of the Sayyid rulers.
(D) imperial overstretch, weakening of central authority, and foreign invasions.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The foundation of the Mughal Empire was laid by Babur, a Timurid prince from Central Asia, whose victory over Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526 marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate. Babur's success was largely attributed to his superior military tactics, including the effective use of gunpowder firearms and the tulughma (flanking) strategy. However, his brief reign of four years was preoccupied with consolidating his precarious hold over northern India against formidable Afghan and Rajput opposition. Upon his death, his son Humayun inherited an unstable empire. Humayun's reign was fraught with challenges, not least from his own brothers and the resilient Afghan nobles. His authority was decisively overthrown by Sher Shah Suri, an Afghan chieftain who established the short-lived but remarkably efficient Suri dynasty. During his exile, Sher Shah introduced significant administrative and revenue reforms, including a standardized currency, a network of roads like the Grand Trunk Road, and a more systematic land revenue assessment system. These reforms laid a crucial groundwork that was later adopted and refined by the Mughals. Humayun, with Persian aid, managed to reclaim his throne in 1555, but died shortly thereafter, leaving the task of truly establishing and consolidating the Mughal Empire to his young son, Akbar. The period thus represents a turbulent transition, defined by initial conquest, a significant dynastic interruption, and the eventual restoration of Mughal authority.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. The passage attributes Babur's victory at Panipat primarily to his:

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(A) It was a composite culture with strong Persian influences.
(B) It was purely an extension of the Delhi Sultanate's culture.
(C) It completely rejected all non-Hindu cultural elements.
(D) It was identical to the culture of the Vijayanagara Empire.

285. The passage suggests that the conflict between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was driven by:
(A) exclusively religious motivations.
(B) a shared desire to overthrow the Tughlaq dynasty.
(C) a combination of geopolitical and economic factors.
(D) pressure from foreign powers to engage in warfare.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following the decline of the central authority of the Bahmani Sultanate around the end of the fifteenth century, its vast territory disintegrated, giving rise to five independent Deccan Sultanates. These successor states were Bijapur under the Adil Shahi dynasty, Ahmadnagar under the Nizam Shahi dynasty, Golkonda under the Qutb Shahi dynasty, and the smaller states of Bidar under the Barid Shahi dynasty and Berar under the Imad Shahi dynasty. Although they shared a common political and cultural heritage from the Bahmani kingdom, their individual histories were marked by constant internecine warfare, shifting alliances, and diplomatic maneuvering. They fought amongst themselves for supremacy in the Deccan, often forming temporary coalitions. A notable instance of cooperation was their collective alliance against the Vijayanagara Empire, leading to its decisive defeat at the Battle of Talikota in 1565. Culturally, these sultanates became vibrant centers of art, architecture, and literature, fostering a unique Deccani style that blended Persian, indigenous, and even European influences. However, their internal disunity ultimately proved fatal. Starting from the late sixteenth century, the northward expansion of the Mughal Empire posed a grave threat, and one by one, over the course of a century, these sultanates were systematically annexed, with Golkonda and Bijapur being the last to fall to Aurangzeb's campaigns.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. The five Deccan Sultanates emerged as a result of:
(A) a directive from the Mughal emperor to divide the region.
(B) a collective victory against the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) the breakup of the Vijayanagara Empire after a civil war.
(D) the disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate's central authority.

287. What event is mentioned as a rare instance of cooperation among the Deccan Sultanates?
(A) Forming an alliance to resist the Mughal invasion
(B) Collectively annexing the state of Berar
(C) Forming a coalition against the Vijayanagara Empire
(D) Jointly developing a uniform Deccani architectural style

288. Which of the following correctly pairs a Deccan Sultanate with its ruling dynasty as mentioned in the passage?
(A) Bijapur – Qutb Shahi
(B) Ahmadnagar – Nizam Shahi
(C) Golkonda – Adil Shahi
(D) Bidar – Imad Shahi

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289. The passage suggests that the ultimate fate of the Deccan Sultanates was:
(A) reunification into a new Bahmani kingdom.
(B) peaceful coexistence and continued independence.
(C) consolidation into a single powerful Deccani empire.
(D) gradual annexation by the expanding Mughal Empire.

290. What was the primary reason for the eventual downfall of the Deccan Sultanates, as implied by the text?
(A) Their internal disunity in the face of Mughal expansion
(B) Their cultural and artistic stagnation
(C) Their inability to defeat the Vijayanagara

ANSWERS

1. (B) Coins issued by rulers
Numismatics involves the systematic study of currency and coinage throughout history. In the medieval Indian context, coins issued by various rulers serve as vital historical evidence. These metallic pieces provide information on the regnal years of kings, the extent of their territorial reach, and the economic conditions of the time. They also help verify the titles and chronology of dynasties within the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire.

2. (A) An archive or record office containing official documents
Medieval Indian administration developed sophisticated systems for record-keeping to maintain order and continuity. The specific term used to describe an archive or a dedicated record office where official state documents were stored is known as a Daftar Khanna. These repositories contained crucial primary materials such as royal decrees, land grants, and correspondence. Studying these archives allows historians to reconstruct the bureaucratic processes and administrative structures of the period.

3. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Historical reconstruction of medieval India relies on diverse sources to ensure accuracy and objectivity. Accounts written by travelers from Persia and Arabia are essential because they provide external viewpoints on contemporary political and social life. Conversely, physical monuments and material remains are classified as archaeological sources, not literary ones. These physical structures offer tangible proof of architectural styles and regional power, contrasting with the subjective nature of many written chronicles.

4. (D) Malwa
The disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate led to the emergence of five specific successor states in the Deccan region. These included Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahmadnagar, Bidar, and Berar, which are collectively known as the Deccan Sultanates. While Malwa was a significant regional kingdom in central India during the medieval period, it was not part of this specific group of southern states arising from the former Bahmani territories.

5. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
The political landscape of medieval India was shaped by foundational figures across different dynasties. Babur established the Mughal Empire after the First Battle of Panipat, while Sher Shah Suri founded the Suri dynasty shortly thereafter. In the Deccan, Shivaji was instrumental in the creation of Maratha Swaraj, asserting local sovereignty. Finally, the Ghorid invasions led by Muhammad Ghori paved the way for the eventual establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.

6. (B) The Ghorids
Turkish rule in the Indian subcontinent was initiated through a series of military campaigns that fundamentally altered the region's political structure. The Ghorid invasions, led by figures like Muhammad Ghori, were the most direct catalyst for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. These invasions shifted the power balance in North India, leading to the administrative and military dominance of the Turks and the start of Sultanate rule.

7. (D) The Sayyids ruled immediately after the Ghorids.
The succession of dynasties within the Delhi Sultanate followed a specific chronological order that began with the Turkish rulers. After the early Turkish or Mamluk phase, the Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis ruled in succession. It is inaccurate to state that the Sayyid dynasty took control immediately after the Ghorid period, as they actually governed much later, following the collapse of the Tughlaq influence in the fifteenth century.

8. (A) Greatest territorial and administrative stability
The phase of the Mughal Empire spanning from the reign of Akbar to Aurangzeb is recognized as its zenith. During this period, the empire

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Mughal authority. This expansion, however, led to the evolution of the Maratha state into a confederacy. Powerful Maratha chiefs who led these northern campaigns, such as the Scindias of Gwalior, the Holkars of Indore, the Gaekwads of Baroda, and the Bhonsles of Nagpur, established their own semi-independent spheres of influence. While they nominally acknowledged the authority of the Peshwa, this confederate structure was fraught with internal jealousies and rivalries. The devastating defeat at the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 checked their northward advance and exposed the weaknesses of their military coordination. Ultimately, the internal divisions within the Maratha Confederacy, combined with the superior diplomacy and military strength of the rising British power, were the primary causes of their decline in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The passage describes a major political shift in the Maratha state after Shivaji, which was:
(A) the dissolution of the Maratha kingdom into smaller states.
(B) the complete subjugation of the Marathas by the Mughal Empire.
(C) the abolition of the Ashtapradhan council by the Chhatrapati.
(D) the transfer of de facto power from the Chhatrapati to the Peshwas.

297. The Maratha Confederacy consisted of:
(A) a group of powerful Maratha chiefs with semi-independent domains.
(B) a formal alliance between the Marathas and the Mughal emperor.
(C) a coalition of Deccan Sultanates led by the Peshwa.
(D) the eight ministers of Shivaji's original Ashtapradhan council.

298. According to the passage, what was a significant consequence of the Third Battle of Panipat (1761)?
(A) It resulted in the final victory of the Marathas over the Mughals.
(B) It checked the northward expansion of the Marathas and exposed their weaknesses.
(C) It led to the establishment of the Maratha Confederacy.
(D) It caused the immediate collapse of British power in India.

299. Which of the following is identified in the text as a primary cause of the Marathas' decline?
(A) A lack of military ambition after Shivaji's death
(B) Internal divisions within the confederacy and the rise of British power
(C) The resurgence of the Vijayanagara Empire in the south
(D) The abolition of the office of the Peshwa

300. The expansion of the Maratha empire under the early Peshwas directly led to:
(A) the formation of the Maratha Confederacy.
(B) the restoration of the Chhatrapati's absolute power.
(C) a permanent alliance with the declining Mughal empire.
(D) the immediate end of all internal rivalries.

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Empire
(D) The resurgence of the Bahmani central power

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The rise of the Marathas in the seventeenth-century Deccan represents a significant regional challenge to the dominant Mughal power. The foundation of 'Swaraj' (self-rule) was laid by Shivaji, a brilliant military strategist and administrator. Operating from his hill-forts in the Western Ghats, Shivaji perfected guerrilla warfare tactics, which proved highly effective against the larger, more conventional armies of the Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates, particularly Bijapur. His conflict with the Mughal Empire, especially with Emperor Aurangzeb, was a defining feature of the period, marked by audacious raids, strategic captures of forts, and dramatic escapes. Beyond his military genius, Shivaji established a sound administrative system to govern the territories he controlled. At the apex of this structure was the 'Ashtapradhan', a council of eight ministers, each responsible for a specific department, such as finance (Peshwa), military affairs (Sar-i-Naubat), and justice (Nyayadhish). This system was designed to ensure efficient governance and check the concentration of power. Shivaji's coronation in 1674 as Chhatrapati not only legitimized his rule as a sovereign Hindu king but also provided a powerful ideological basis for the nascent Maratha state, challenging the legitimacy of Mughal overlordship in the region.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. The term 'Swaraj', in the context of Shivaji's movement, is best understood as:
(A) an alliance with the Mughal Empire.
(B) a system of guerrilla warfare.
(C) the establishment of self-rule.
(D) a council of eight ministers.

292. The 'Ashtapradhan' established by Shivaji was:
(A) a council of ministers responsible for different administrative departments.
(B) a group of elite military commanders for guerrilla warfare.
(C) a system for collecting revenue from conquered territories.
(D) a treaty signed between Shivaji and the Sultan of Bijapur.

293. According to the passage, what was a key factor in Shivaji's military success against larger armies?
(A) His reliance on heavy cavalry and conventional battles
(B) The financial support he received from Emperor Aurangzeb
(C) The formation of a permanent alliance with the Deccan Sultanates
(D) His effective use of guerrilla warfare tactics

294. What was the political significance of Shivaji's coronation as Chhatrapati?
(A) It marked his submission to the authority of the Mughal Emperor.
(B) It legitimized his rule and provided an ideological basis for the Maratha state.
(C) It was a condition for securing an alliance with Bijapur.
(D) It led to the immediate dissolution of the Ashtapradhan council.

295. The passage indicates that Shivaji's administrative system was designed to:
(A) concentrate all power in the hands of a single minister.
(B) replicate the Mughal administrative structure exactly.
(C) ensure efficient governance and prevent the over-centralization of power.
(D) manage only military affairs while ignoring civil administration.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following Shivaji's death, the Maratha state underwent a significant transformation, particularly with the rise of the Peshwas, who were originally the prime ministers in the Ashtapradhan council. Starting with Balaji Vishwanath, the position of the Peshwa became hereditary and they emerged as the de facto rulers of the Maratha state, while the Chhatrapati was relegated to a more symbolic role. Under the early Peshwas, particularly Baji Rao I and Balaji Baji Rao, the Marathas embarked on a phase of vigorous expansion, extending their influence deep into northern India and challenging the declining

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underwent significant territorial expansion across the Indian subcontinent. Simultaneously, the consolidation of administrative systems, such as the Mansabdari system, ensured a high degree of stability and centralized control. This era represents the peak of Mughal power before the onset of fragmentation under later rulers.

9. (C) A is true but R is false.
Chronicles are indispensable narrative accounts for reconstructing the political history and dynastic changes of the Delhi Sultanate. While they provide detailed records of court activities and military conquests, they are distinct from archival documents found in record offices. Daftar Khannas primarily stored official papers like royal decrees or firmans and administrative ledgers known as bahis. Therefore, while the value of chronicles is certain, their classification as archival documents is incorrect.

10. (A) Shivaji
The concept of Swaraj, or self-rule, emerged as a significant political challenge to the existing imperial authorities in the seventeenth century. Shivaji is the historical figure credited with the foundation of this independent Maratha sovereignty. His military strategies and administrative innovations allowed for the creation of a distinct political entity that asserted its autonomy against both the Mughal Empire and the established Sultanates of the Deccan plateau.

11. (D) The Deccan Plateau
During the fourteenth century, the political map of the southern part of the Indian subcontinent changed with the rise of two powerful rival entities. The foundation of the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate marked a significant shift in authority over the Deccan Plateau. These kingdoms became major regional powers, engaging in prolonged conflicts over territory and resources, which defined the geopolitical landscape of the Deccan for several centuries.

12. (A) 1 and 2 only
Medieval Indian history is reconstructed using various categories of evidence, ranging from written literature to archival records. Sanskrit texts are accurately classified as literary sources, providing cultural and religious insights. Additionally, documents like akhbarat, which were news reports or bulletins, are typical examples of materials preserved within archival record offices. However, physical monuments are archaeological rather than literary sources, and epigraphic evidence refers to inscriptions rather than the study of coins.

13. (C) Humayun and Akbar
The continuity of Mughal rule was briefly interrupted by the emergence of the Suri dynasty in the mid-sixteenth century. After defeating the second Mughal emperor, Humayun, Sher Shah Suri established his authority in Delhi. This period of Suri rule served as an interregnum between the first phase of the Mughal Empire under Humayun and its eventual restoration and expansion under the third emperor, Akbar, who reclaimed the throne years later.

14. (D) Decentralized alliance of semi-autonomous leaders
Following the expansion of Maratha influence beyond its initial heartland, the political structure of the state evolved into a more complex organization. This phase is best described as a confederacy, which functioned as a decentralized alliance of various semi-autonomous leaders or chieftains. While they acknowledged a central authority, such as the Peshwa, these leaders managed their own territories and military forces, representing a shift from a centralized monarchy to shared governance.

15. (A) 2, 1, 3, 4
The political history of the Delhi Sultanate is organized by the chronological succession of its ruling families. The Khalji dynasty rose to power first, followed by the Tughlaqs, who expanded the empire significantly. After the decline of the Tughlaqs, the Sayyid dynasty briefly held authority before finally being replaced by the Lodis. This sequence illustrates the transition of power from the early medieval Turkish and Afghan elites until the Mughal invasion.

16. (B) Literary Source – Sanskrit texts
Identifying the correct category for historical evidence is crucial for systematic research. Literary sources consist of written works, including religious, poetic, and philosophical

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Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, the Sayyids, and the Lodis, along with the early Turkish or Slave dynasty. While the Ghorid invasions were the essential precursor to this period, the Ghorids themselves are often categorized as the invading force that established the foundation rather than being one of the subsequent dynasties that managed the consolidated Sultanate structure during its main ruling phase.

48. (B) The expansion of Maratha influence across India
After the initial foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji, the nature of Maratha power underwent a significant transformation with the rise of the Peshwas. Under their leadership, the Marathas transitioned from a regional power to a major force with pan-Indian ambitions. This era saw the expansion of Maratha influence far beyond the Deccan, reaching into North and Central India. The Peshwas were instrumental in coordinating military campaigns that established the Marathas as the dominant power in the eighteenth century.

49. (B) Material evidences and monuments are part of archaeological sources.
Historical evidence is broadly divided into literary and archaeological categories based on its nature. Archaeological sources include tangible remains such as monuments and material evidences like pottery or tools. These are distinct from literary sources, which are written works like Persian chronicles or Sanskrit texts. Epigraphic and numismatic sources are also physical in nature, focusing on inscriptions and coins respectively. Identifying these categories correctly is essential for a balanced and comprehensive study of the medieval Indian past.

50. (A) The Delhi Sultanate
The political history of North India from the late twelfth century to the early sixteenth century is dominated by a specific state known as the Delhi Sultanate. This entity was characterized by the rule of several successive groups, including the Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis. Together, these dynasties established the administrative and military structures that defined Islamic rule in the subcontinent before the arrival of the Mughals, who eventually displaced the last Sultanate dynasty.

51. (A) 3, 2, 1, 4
The early and peak phases of the Mughal Empire follow a clear chronological progression of its sovereigns. Babur founded the empire in 1526, followed by his son Humayun, whose reign was interrupted by the Suris. After the restoration of the dynasty, Akbar significantly expanded and consolidated the empire. Finally, Aurangzeb represents the last of the Great Mughals, under whom the empire reached its maximum territorial extent before the onset of decline during the subsequent period.

52. (D) Political sovereignty
When Shivaji founded the concept of Swaraj in the seventeenth century, it was primarily an assertion of political sovereignty. This movement sought to establish an independent state that was free from the control of external imperial powers, such as the Mughal Empire or the Deccan Sultanates. While it had cultural and administrative components, the core of Swaraj was the right of the local population to govern themselves under their own sovereign leadership, marking a significant political shift.

53. (C) Causes of its Decline
A comprehensive historical study of the Maratha power involves examining its entire trajectory, from its rise to its eventual fall. A key subject for historians is the analysis of the causes of its decline. This investigation focuses on the internal rivalries, the decentralized nature of the confederacy, and external pressures that weakened the state in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Understanding these factors is essential for explaining why Maratha dominance eventually gave way to colonial influence.

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54. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
In the medieval Deccan, the Bahmani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire were major contemporary powers that frequently competed for dominance. This rivalry defined the region's politics for nearly two centuries. However, the description of the Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis is inaccurate. These dynasties were prominent regional powers in Eastern India, specifically in the Odisha region, rather than being associated with the Delhi

Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. While both statements are factually correct regarding the names and the result of the disintegration, the list of names itself does not explain why or how the disintegration occurred. Therefore, they are accurate independent historical facts regarding the Deccan's medieval political transition.

25. (C) Complex political interactions involving conflict and diplomacy
The study of the relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha power reveals a dynamic and multifaceted history. Rather than being defined by constant warfare alone, these interactions involved periods of intense military conflict as well as strategic diplomacy, treaties, and shifting alliances. Understanding this relationship requires analyzing how both powers negotiated for influence, territorial control, and political legitimacy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, reflecting the complexity of medieval Indian statecraft.

26. (A) Firmans
Archives and record offices, known as Daftar Khannas, were essential for the administrative functioning of medieval Indian states. These repositories stored various types of official documentation that reflected the government's decisions. Among these records, firmans were specific documents containing royal orders or decrees issued by the sovereign. These papers provide primary evidence of the state's policies, land assignments, and judicial rulings, making them distinct from literary works or narrative chronicles found elsewhere.

27. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
Historical periods are often defined by the rise of specific powers and key events. Babur is credited with the foundation of the Mughal Empire in the sixteenth century. In the Deccan, the Bahmanis emerged as a major political entity. The Lodi dynasty was the final ruling family of the Delhi Sultanate before the Mughal conquest. Meanwhile, the Suryavamshi Gajapatis represented a significant power in Eastern India, illustrating the regional diversity of medieval Indian political history.

28. (B) A book, register, or ledger, often part of an archive
Records maintained by medieval administrations often took the form of bound volumes or systematic registers used for accounting and documentation. Terms such as bahi or pothi refer to these types of books or ledgers, which were frequently housed in state archives or record offices. These sources are invaluable for historians as they contain detailed information on financial transactions, land revenue, and administrative activities, providing a clearer picture of the state's daily operations and economic management.

29. (C) Mughal dynasty
The progression of Mughal rule in India was not entirely continuous during its early stages. The establishment of the Suri dynasty by Sher Shah Suri created a significant break in the timeline of Mughal authority. This Afghan rule acted as an interregnum, as it temporarily displaced the Mughal sovereign, Humayun, from power. The Suris governed North India for fifteen years until the Mughals managed to reclaim their throne, marking a crucial interruption in their imperial history.

30. (A) 1 only
Within the history of the Delhi Sultanate, the Khalji dynasty represents a significant period of expansion and reform. While this statement is accurate, others regarding medieval geography are incorrect. The Bahmanis were a Deccan power, not a North Indian one, and the Suryavamshi Gajapatis were located in Eastern India rather than the Deccan. Furthermore, the Suri dynasty rose to power in the sixteenth century, long after the Ghorid period had concluded in the thirteenth century.

31. (A) The Mughal Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate
The term disintegration is used by historians to describe the process where a large, centralized political entity breaks apart into smaller, independent units. This phenomenon is a central theme in the study of both the Mughal Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate. The Mughals saw their central authority weaken after Aurangzeb, leading to regional fragmentation, while the Bahmani kingdom eventually split into five separate Deccan Sultanates, ending their respective periods of unified imperial rule.

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compositions, such as medieval Sanskrit texts. Conversely, numismatic sources focus on coins, not royal decrees. Epigraphic sources involve the study of inscriptions on hard surfaces rather than narrative chronicles. Furthermore, archival documents like news bulletins are not classified as archaeological material, which instead consists of physical remains and ruins.

17. (B) The Mughal Empire
The gradual weakening of the Delhi Sultanate during the fifteenth century led to increased fragmentation and the rise of several regional powers across North India. This period of political instability eventually paved the way for the invasion of Babur and the establishment of the Mughal Empire. The collapse of the Lodi dynasty at the Battle of Panipat signaled the end of the Sultanate era and the beginning of Mughal dominance.

18. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Maratha history encompasses both the rise and the eventual decline of their political influence in the subcontinent. After Shivaji established the foundation of an independent Maratha state, or Swaraj, the power of the state expanded tremendously across India under the leadership of the Peshwas. A comprehensive historical analysis of this period necessarily includes investigating the internal and external factors that ultimately led to the weakening and collapse of the Maratha power.

19. (C) Epigraphy
Various specialized fields contribute to the study of the past by analyzing different types of physical evidence. The specific discipline dedicated to the study of inscriptions found on durable surfaces like stone, metal plates, or temple walls is known as epigraphy. This field is distinct from numismatics, which focuses on coins, or cartography, which deals with map-making. Epigraphic records provide invaluable primary data about royal proclamations, land grants, and dynastic genealogies.

20. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only
The Bahmani Sultanate was a prominent political force in the Deccan region for over a century. It was established as an independent entity and frequently clashed with the neighboring Vijayanagara Empire over territorial control. Over time, internal strife led to the disintegration of this large kingdom into five smaller, independent sultanates. It was neither founded by Babur nor located in Eastern India, as those descriptions apply to the Mughals and Gajapatis respectively.

21. (C) Progressive disintegration of the Mughal Empire
The period following the death of Aurangzeb in the early eighteenth century is historically categorized as the era of the Later Mughals. This phase was marked by a series of relatively weak rulers who struggled to maintain the vast territories inherited from their predecessors. Consequently, the empire experienced a progressive disintegration as regional governors asserted independence and new powers like the Marathas rose, leading to the eventual collapse of central Mughal authority.

22. (B) Eastern India (Odisha region)
In the medieval period, several regional dynasties flourished outside the direct control of the central empires in Delhi. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a significant ruling family primarily associated with the region of Eastern India, encompassing modern-day Odisha. They were known for their military strength and patronage of culture, maintaining their independence and asserting their influence over the eastern coast during the same era the Sultanate and Bahmani powers existed elsewhere.

23. (D) Babur – Lodi
Matching rulers to their respective dynasties is fundamental for understanding historical chronologies. Akbar was a prominent member of the Mughal dynasty, just as Alauddin belonged to the Khalji dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate. Shivaji was the foundational leader of the Maratha power. However, Babur was not a member of the Lodi dynasty; rather, he was the founder of the Mughal Empire who famously defeated the last Lodi ruler at the Battle of Panipat.

24. (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
The political fragmentation of the Bahmani kingdom in the Deccan led to the formation of five distinct successor states. These entities, known as the Deccan Sultanates, included Bijapur,

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Empire. Their history is thus deeply connected to the legacy and fragmentation of the original Bahmani state.

40. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The period of the Mughal Empire from the reign of Akbar through Aurangzeb is characterized by both territorial growth and administrative development. During this time, the empire's borders expanded to their greatest extent, covering almost the entire Indian subcontinent. Simultaneously, the establishment of a robust and centralized administrative framework ensured that these vast territories were effectively governed. This combination of conquest and governance justifies describing this era as one of significant expansion and consolidation.

41. (C) Firmans from the Daftar Khannas
To understand the top-down perspective of Mughal administration, historians look for documents that represent the direct will of the sovereign. Firmans, which were formal royal decrees or orders issued by the Emperor, are primary examples of such evidence. These documents, preserved in record offices known as Daftar Khannas, reveal the official policies, appointments, and land grants sanctioned by the imperial center. They offer a clear view of how the central government communicated and exercised its authority.

42. (A) Eastern India – Bahmanis
Historical classifications often pair dynasties with their primary geographic spheres of influence. The Tughlaqs were indeed a major family within the Delhi Sultanate, and Golkonda was a significant Deccan Sultanate. However, the Bahmani kingdom was a major power in the Deccan region, not Eastern India. Eastern India during the same period was primarily influenced by dynasties like the Suryavamshi Gajapatis. The Suris, while ruling the Mughal territories, are treated as a distinct Afghan interregnum.

43. (D) The establishment of an independent Maratha sovereignty
The political actions of Shivaji in the seventeenth century represented a fundamental shift in the power dynamics of the Deccan. By founding Swaraj, he was asserting the creation of an independent Maratha sovereignty. This was not merely an administrative change or an alliance but a declaration of self-rule that challenged the dominance of the Mughal Empire and the local Sultanates. This event laid the groundwork for the future expansion of Maratha power throughout the Indian subcontinent.

44. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Different medieval entities held power across various regions and historical phases. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a dominant force in Eastern India, while the Bahmanis were a major power in the Deccan. The Lodi dynasty centered its authority around Delhi as the final rulers of the Sultanate. In contrast, the period of the Later Mughals represents the phase of a disintegrating all-India empire where central control weakened and regional powers began to assert their independence.

45. (C) Gradual process of weakness and fragmentation
The decline of the Mughal Empire is not viewed by historians as a sudden, single event. Instead, it is analyzed as a gradual process characterized by increasing institutional weakness and political fragmentation. This decline became especially evident during the era of the Later Mughals, when the central authority could no longer effectively manage its vast territories or suppress regional revolts. The process involved multiple internal and external factors that slowly eroded the once-mighty imperial structure.

46. (D) Monuments
Archaeological sources of history consist of physical remains, artifacts, and structures left behind by past societies. Monuments, such as temples, forts, and palaces, are primary examples of this type of evidence. They provide tangible information about architectural styles, engineering capabilities, and the cultural values of the time. Unlike chronicles or firmans, which are written literary or archival records, monuments offer a physical dimension to historical study, reflecting the wealth and power of the regimes that built them.

47. (B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
The Delhi Sultanate was governed by a sequence of five distinct dynasties. These included the

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32. (B) Foreign Travellers' Accounts
Historians utilize reports written by individuals from outside the Indian subcontinent to gain an external perspective on medieval society. These documents, primarily written in languages like Persian and Arabic, are categorized as foreign travelers' accounts. These writers often recorded details about the political climate, trade practices, and social customs they observed during their journeys. Such sources complement indigenous chronicles and administrative records by providing a different viewpoint on the events and conditions of the time.

33. (B) Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Sayyids
The succession of power within the Delhi Sultanate followed a specific dynastic order. The Khalji dynasty was followed by the Tughlaqs, who were then succeeded by the Sayyid rulers. This progression reflects the changing political fortunes of different elite groups in North India. Other sequences, such as those involving the Mughals or Marathas, represent different historical periods or structures, whereas the Khalji to Sayyid transition is a standard chronological segment of the Sultanate era.

34. (A) Transition from the Sultanate to the Mughal era
The end of the Delhi Sultanate and the rise of the Mughals are closely linked historical events. The internal weakening and eventual decline of the Sultanate under the Lodis created the political conditions that allowed Babur to successfully invade and establish a new empire. Studying this cause-and-effect relationship is central to understanding the transition from the Sultanate period to the Mughal era, marking a major turning point in the history of the Indian subcontinent.

35. (C) 3, 4, 2, 1
Political entities in medieval India emerged in a clear historical sequence. The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate by Turkish invaders occurred first, followed by the rise of the Bahmani Sultanate in the Deccan during the fourteenth century. The Mughal Empire was founded much later, in the early sixteenth century, after the Battle of Panipat. Finally, the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji took place in the seventeenth century, representing a later assertion of independence against existing imperial powers.

36. (D) The Suris
The Delhi Sultanate is historically defined by five specific dynasties that ruled in succession from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. These include the early Turks, the Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, the Sayyids, and the Lodis. While the Suri dynasty was a significant Afghan power that ruled North India for a brief period, it is classified as an interregnum within the Mughal period rather than one of the original dynasties that constituted the Delhi Sultanate structure.

37. (C) News reports or official bulletins
Official records from the Mughal period include a variety of documents that provide insights into daily governance and court life. Among these, the term akhbarat refers specifically to news reports or bulletins that were generated to keep track of happenings at court or in the provinces. These documents served as a form of official communication, allowing historians to understand the flow of information and the routine administrative interests of the empire during that era.

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38. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The early phase of the Delhi Sultanate was established by the Ghorids and subsequent Turkish rulers who laid the administrative and military groundwork for the state. While this foundational period is correctly identified, the statement regarding the end of the Sultanate is inaccurate. The Sultanate period did not conclude with the Sayyids; rather, the Lodi dynasty was the final ruling family of the Delhi Sultanate, eventually being displaced by the Mughal invasion in 1526.

39. (D) The Bahmani Sultanate
The political geography of the Deccan underwent a major transformation following the collapse of a large, unified Muslim kingdom. The disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate led directly to the emergence of five smaller, independent sultanates: Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. These successor states dominated the southern political landscape until they were eventually absorbed by the Mughal

region, which was the seat of the Sultanate and Mughal empires.

55. (D) The Deccan Sultanates
The political fragmentation of the Bahmani kingdom resulted in the emergence of five independent states in Southern India. These entities—Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar—are collectively referred to by historians as the Deccan Sultanates. They maintained their own administrations and military forces while often engaging in complex diplomatic and military struggles with each other and neighboring powers like Vijayanagara and the Mughals until their eventual absorption into the expanding Mughal Empire.

56. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The early Mughal period faced a significant challenge from Afghan forces led by Sher Shah Suri. Humayun's reign was indeed interrupted when he was defeated and forced into a long period of exile. During this time, the Suri dynasty took control of Delhi and established its own administrative system. This displacement explains why the continuity of Mughal rule was broken, making the rise of the Suris a direct cause for the temporary loss of the Mughal imperial throne.

57. (C) The diverse cultural, social, and political narratives of medieval India.
Reconstructing the history of medieval India requires the analysis of literary works written in multiple languages. Sources in Persian often reflect the official court perspective, while Sanskrit and regional language texts provide insights into religious, social, and local cultural life. By studying all these sources together, historians can develop a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the diverse narratives that shaped the period, moving beyond a strictly military or administrative focus to include wider social contexts.

58. (A) Vijayanagara, Bahmanis, Bijapur, Golkonda
The Deccan region of India was the site of several powerful and interconnected political entities during the medieval era. The Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate were the two most prominent powers that dominated the plateau for centuries. Following the disintegration of the Bahmani state, successor sultanates such as Bijapur and Golkonda emerged within the same geographic area. These groups all share a common regional context, unlike entities like the Lodis or Khaljis which were primarily North Indian.

59. (D) The Mughal Empire
The political landscape of eighteenth-century India was significantly altered by the weakening of the central imperial authority. The decline of the Mughal Empire, which had previously maintained a large degree of control over the subcontinent, created a political vacuum. This instability allowed regional powers, most notably the Marathas, to expand their influence and assert their own sovereignty. The fragmentation of Mughal power was thus a critical factor that facilitated the rise of various local and regional states.

60. (B) 1, 2, and 3 only
The trajectory of the Mughal Empire is often studied in distinct phases. It was founded by Babur in the early sixteenth century and reached its peak of consolidation and administrative efficiency under Akbar. After the death of Aurangzeb, the empire entered a period of decline and fragmentation during the era of the Later Mughals. However, the Bahmani Sultanate was a contemporary of the earlier Sultanate period and had disintegrated long before the final stages of the Mughal Empire.

61. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Understanding historical terminology is essential for categorizing different types of primary sources. Numismatics refers specifically to the study of coins, which provide economic and regnal data. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions found on hard surfaces. Chronicles are narrative historical accounts written to record the events of a dynasty or reign. Finally, firmans are royal orders or decrees issued by a monarch. These categories help historians systematically organize the diverse evidence used to reconstruct the past.

62. (D) Shivaji and his successors
The relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha state is a central theme in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Indian

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precise year of minting. Because coins were issued under official authority, they serve as reliable indicators of a kingdom's economic status and the geographic area where a ruler's currency was accepted, making them invaluable for chronological reconstruction.

123. (D) The Lodis
The terminal phase of the Delhi Sultanate is characterized by the weakening of its central authority. Historians analyze the factors that led to this decline specifically during the reign of the Lodi dynasty. As the last ruling family of the Sultanate, the Lodis faced internal challenges and regional resistance that reduced their power. This decline created the political vulnerability that facilitated the successful invasion by Babur, who ultimately defeated the last Lodi ruler to establish the Mughal Empire.

124. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
A thorough understanding of Maratha history requires examining the entire arc of their power, including the circumstances of its eventual collapse. Historians place significant value on studying the causes of the Maratha decline because it provides critical insights into the shifting political and military dynamics of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Investigating why this major power weakened and fell helps explain the transition toward British colonial dominance, making the study of its decline a vital component of Indian history.

125. (C) The Deccan
The rise of the Vijayanagara Empire in the fourteenth century was a major political event that occurred in the southern part of the Indian subcontinent. This empire was established as a powerful regional state specifically within the Deccan region. Its foundation was a significant development because it created a large, unified power that defended local cultural and political interests against northern expansion. For several centuries, Vijayanagara remained the dominant force in the Deccan, shaping the region's history and architecture.

126. (D) Obtaining external perspectives on local events
The records written by individuals from outside the subcontinent, such as travelers from Persia and Arabia, are essential for historical objectivity. These foreign travelers recorded their observations of Indian society, politics, and customs from an outsider's viewpoint. Their accounts provide a valuable external perspective that can be compared and contrasted with indigenous sources like royal chronicles or administrative documents. This allows historians to gain a more balanced and comprehensive understanding of the events and conditions of medieval India.

127. (A) They interrupted the rule of the Mughal emperor Humayun.
The Suri dynasty played a brief but critical role in the political timeline of North India during the mid-sixteenth century. Their most significant historical impact was the displacement of the Mughal emperor Humayun. After defeating him in battle, the Suris established their own authority in Delhi, creating a fifteen-year interruption in the continuity of Mughal rule. This period is studied as an interregnum because it occurred between the initial foundation of the Mughal state and its subsequent restoration under Akbar.

128. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different dynasties in medieval India belonged to specific political structures and regions. The Khaljis were a major ruling family within the Delhi Sultanate. The Suri dynasty is historically categorized as a Mughal interregnum because it temporarily displaced Mughal rule. The Gajapatis represented a significant regional kingdom in Eastern India, specifically in the Odisha region. Finally, the Peshwas were the primary leaders associated with the later development and expansion of the Maratha political system across the Indian subcontinent.

129. (B) Decentralized with multiple power centers
The Maratha Confederacy represents a phase in Maratha political organization that differed from a traditional centralized monarchy. This structure was essentially a decentralized alliance where authority was shared among several powerful military leaders and chiefs. While the Peshwa served as a nominal central figure, individual leaders managed their own territories and military forces. This arrangement created

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represent the initial stage of building and securing the empire before its later peak of consolidation.

70. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Reconstructing medieval Indian history requires a multifaceted approach that utilizes several categories of evidence. Archaeological sources, including physical remains and monuments, provide tangible proof of the past. Epigraphic and numismatic sources offer specific data from inscriptions and coins. Written records are found in literary sources and foreign travelers' accounts, which provide both indigenous and external perspectives. All these source types are essential for developing a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the political and social conditions of the time.

71. (D) Foundation of the Mughal Empire
Historical narratives of North India often follow a chronological flow of major political transitions. The period of the Delhi Sultanate concludes with an analysis of its weakening and eventual decline under the Lodi dynasty. This fragmentation and loss of central authority immediately preceded the invasion led by Babur. Therefore, the study of the Sultanate's collapse sets the necessary political context for understanding the subsequent foundation of the Mughal Empire after the decisive Battle of Panipat.

72. (A) A collective of powerful Maratha chiefs
During the eighteenth century, the Maratha state moved away from the highly centralized monarchy established by its founders. This later phase is characterized by the Maratha Confederacy, which functioned as a collective of various powerful chiefs and military leaders. These chieftains, such as the Scindias and Holkars, managed their own territories while maintaining a formal alliance under the central coordination of the Peshwa. This decentralized structure allowed for widespread territorial expansion but also created internal political complexities.

73. (C) Providing a diverse picture of medieval society
While Persian was the primary language of administration and court records in many medieval Indian states, it does not capture the full range of historical experiences. Literary sources in regional languages and Sanskrit are equally important because they reflect different social, cultural, and religious perspectives. By including these diverse linguistic sources, historians can construct a more balanced and complete picture of medieval society, incorporating the views and lives of people living outside the immediate imperial centers.

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74. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The medieval history of the Deccan region is largely defined by the presence of two powerful and rival entities. The Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate dominated the political landscape for nearly two centuries, and their constant competition for resources and territory shaped the region's development. Because these kingdoms were the primary actors in the Deccan during this period, studying both is essential for anyone seeking to understand the political and military dynamics of southern India at that time.

75. (D) Tughlaqs → Sayyids → Lodis
The succession of ruling families in Delhi followed a specific chronological sequence throughout the Sultanate period. The Tughlaq dynasty was followed by the Sayyids, who managed a reduced territory after the collapse of Tughlaq power. Finally, the Lodi dynasty took control as the last ruling group of the Delhi Sultanate before the Mughal conquest. This sequence correctly reflects the later phases of Sultanate rule, whereas other options incorrectly arrange the dynasties or include groups from different eras.

76. (B) Bijapur
The fragmentation of the Bahmani Sultanate in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries led to the rise of several independent states in the Deccan. These successor entities are known as the Deccan Sultanates. Among the options provided, Bijapur is one of the five specific kingdoms that emerged from the original Bahmani territories. Other successor states included Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. These entities played a crucial role in southern Indian politics until the Mughal expansion.

77. (C) Expansion of Maratha power
After the initial establishment of an independent kingdom, the Maratha state underwent a major

history. This study focuses on the interactions between the consolidated Mughal power and the independent sovereignty established by Shivaji. These relations continued through the reigns of his successors, involving both periods of intense conflict and strategic diplomacy. Analyzing this dynamic helps explain the shifting power balances as the Marathas rose to challenge the imperial dominance of the Mughal sovereigns.

63. (A) Oral traditions and folklore
Historians of medieval India rely on a variety of well-established primary sources to reconstruct the period's history. These include archival records found in Daftar Khannas, accounts by foreign travelers from Persia and Arabia, and physical evidence such as inscriptions or epigraphic sources. While oral traditions and folklore provide cultural insights, they are not typically categorized as primary, verifiable historical sources in the same rigorous academic sense as written chronicles, administrative documents, or physical archaeological remains from that era.

64. (B) The Lodis
The Delhi Sultanate's political history spans several centuries, beginning with the foundations laid by the Ghorid invasions and the subsequent Turkish rule. This era saw a series of dynasties control North India, each contributing to the state's military and administrative evolution. The period of the Sultanate eventually came to an end with the rule of the Lodi dynasty. Their defeat by Babur in the sixteenth century marked the conclusion of this historical phase and the start of Mughal rule.

65. (B) Imperial disintegration
The phase of Mughal history following the death of Aurangzeb is best described as one of imperial disintegration. During this time, the central authority of the state weakened, leading to the fragmentation of its vast territories. Successive rulers, known as the Later Mughals, were unable to maintain control over distant provinces, allowing regional governors and new powers like the Marathas to assert independence. This period represents the transition from a centralized empire to a more divided political landscape.

66. (A) The Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire
While the history of medieval India is often focused on the large empires centered in Delhi, significant regional powers existed outside these heartlands. The Eastern Gangas and the Suryavamshi Gajapatis were prominent dynasties that ruled in Eastern India, specifically the Odisha region. Their development was largely independent of the direct political control of the Delhi Sultanate and the later Mughal Empire, illustrating the diverse and decentralized nature of political authority across different parts of the Indian subcontinent.

67. (C) Its eventual disintegration into five sultanates
A critical theme in the study of the Bahmani kingdom is its internal stability and eventual collapse. After serving as a major unified power in the Deccan for over a century, the kingdom suffered from political fragmentation. This process culminated in its disintegration into five independent successor states, known as the Deccan Sultanates. This transition from a single large empire to several smaller entities is fundamental to understanding the political evolution of Southern India during the late medieval period.

68. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Maratha history is divided into distinct phases based on leadership and political structure. The foundation of Swaraj, or independent Maratha rule, was established by Shivaji in the seventeenth century. Following this initial period, the state's power and territorial reach expanded significantly across the Indian subcontinent under the leadership of the Peshwas. Therefore, while the Peshwas were responsible for the empire's expansion, they were not the original founders of the sovereign Maratha state, which was Shivaji's achievement.

69. (C) Foundation of the empire
The early history of the Mughal presence in India is characterized by a period of struggle and establishment. This foundational phase includes the initial conquest by Babur and the challenging reign of his successor, Humayun. The Suri dynasty, although an Afghan power, is also studied in this context because its rule was a significant interregnum that temporarily displaced the Mughals. Together, these events

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and Ahmadnagar. While Khandesh was an independent regional sultanate located near the Deccan, it was not one of the five specific entities that emerged from the direct fragmentation of the original Bahmani state. These five successor states dominated southern politics until they were conquered by the Mughal Empire.

86. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
Major political forces in medieval India appeared in a specific chronological sequence. The Khalji dynasty was an early power within the Delhi Sultanate. Following this, the Bahmani Sultanate emerged as a major independent entity in the Deccan during the fourteenth century. The Suri dynasty rose to prominence in the mid-sixteenth century as an interregnum in Mughal rule. Finally, the Maratha Confederacy became a dominant pan-Indian power much later, during the eighteenth century, following the expansion led by the Peshwas.

87. (D) Aurangzeb
The dynamic interaction between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha power became a central feature of Indian politics during the seventeenth century. While earlier emperors had some contact with the region, the study of Mughal-Maratha relations focuses heavily on the reign of Aurangzeb. His long campaigns in the Deccan and his persistent conflict with Shivaji and his successors define this period, illustrating the intense struggle for territorial control and political dominance between these two formidable medieval powers.

88. (A) Their reigns form the foundational period of the empire
In historical studies, Babur, Humayun, and the Suris are grouped together because their reigns represent the initial phase of the Mughal presence in India. This foundational period was characterized by conquest, the initial setup of administrative structures, and a significant challenge from Afghan rivals. The Suri rule is included because it was a major interregnum that directly interrupted the Mughal timeline. This phase concluded before the empire entered its era of greatest consolidation and territorial stability under later sovereigns.

89. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The collapse of the Mughal Empire was a multifaceted and complex historical process that spanned several decades. Historians analyze this decline by looking at specific phases, such as the era of the Later Mughals and the subsequent disintegration of central authority. These phases help explain how various internal weaknesses and external pressures slowly eroded the empire's power. Because the decline involved these distinct stages of weakening and fragmentation, it is accurately described as a complex and multi-stage phenomenon.

90. (A) The administrative and record-keeping mechanisms
Official documents such as royal orders, news bulletins, and administrative registers provide a detailed view of how medieval states were governed. Sources like firmans, bahis, and akhbarat are essential for understanding the record-keeping and bureaucratic mechanisms of the time. These records show how decisions were made, how information was collected from across the provinces, and how financial and administrative tasks were organized. They offer a window into the practical daily operations of the ruling central authorities.

91. (D) Aurangzeb
The rise of the Maratha power under the leadership of Shivaji occurred during a period of intense imperial expansion. His efforts to establish an independent sovereignty, or Swaraj, directly challenged the authority of the Mughal Empire, which was then ruled by the powerful emperor Aurangzeb. The prolonged conflict and diplomatic interactions between Shivaji and Aurangzeb are a central theme of seventeenth-century Indian history, marking the emergence of a new regional challenge to the long-standing central Mughal dominance.

92. (B) The Bahmani Sultanate disintegrated, leading to the rise of the five Deccan Sultanates.
The political history of the Deccan is characterized by the transition from a large, unified state to several smaller ones. The Bahmani Sultanate originally held authority over a vast territory in Southern India. However, internal conflicts eventually caused the kingdom to break apart.

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This disintegration led directly to the emergence of five independent states, known collectively as the Deccan Sultanates. Thus, the Bahmani state serves as the predecessor and parent kingdom to these five successor political entities.

93. (C) Foreign Travellers' Accounts
Documents written by individuals visiting from regions outside India provide essential external perspectives on medieval society. Many of these travelers and chroniclers from the Middle East wrote their observations in languages like Persian and Arabic. These works are categorized by historians as foreign travelers' accounts. They offer unique insights into the social customs, trade networks, and political climate of the Indian subcontinent as seen through the eyes of outsiders, complementing the data found in indigenous archival or literary records.

94. (D) The Lodis
The Delhi Sultanate was the dominant power in North India for over three centuries, ending in the early sixteenth century. The last ruling family of this period was the Lodi dynasty, which governed from Delhi. Their authority was ultimately challenged and overturned by the invasion of Babur. The defeat of the Lodi Sultan at the Battle of Panipat in 1526 marked the immediate end of the Sultanate era and the starting point for the establishment of the Mughal Empire.

95. (B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
Different historical concepts describe specific phases and structures of medieval power. Swaraj refers to the independent sovereignty established by Shivaji. The Maratha Confederacy represents the later alliance of various chiefs under the coordination of the Peshwa. A Deccan Sultanate, such as Bijapur, is a successor state that arose after the fragmentation of the Bahmani kingdom. Finally, the term Later Mughals identifies the period of decline and disintegration that followed the peak of the Mughal Empire's power.

96. (B) Numismatics is the study of inscriptions.
Proper classification of historical disciplines is vital for accurate research. While chronicles are indeed literary sources and monuments are archaeological evidence, the definition of numismatics is often misunderstood. Numismatics is specifically the study of coins and currency, not inscriptions. The study of inscriptions found on hard surfaces is correctly known as epigraphy. Therefore, the statement confusing numismatics with the study of inscriptions is factually incorrect within the context of historical terminology used for medieval sources.

97. (B) The strengthening of administrative institutions and securing of territories.
The term consolidation in Mughal history refers to a specific phase of state-building that followed initial conquest. During the period from Akbar to Aurangzeb, the empire focused on strengthening its administrative institutions, such as the revenue system and the military hierarchy. This phase also involved securing and integrating newly acquired territories into a centralized political structure. This effort ensured that the empire remained stable and effectively governed during its era of greatest territorial extent and imperial power.

98. (B) 2 and 4 only
Medieval Indian polity was characterized by the presence of several large kingdoms and the eventual decline of major empires. In the Deccan, the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were prominent and rival powers. Additionally, the disintegration of the Mughal Empire is studied as a significant political development following its peak. However, the Delhi Sultanate was ruled by several different dynasties, not just one, and the Maratha power was founded by Shivaji before the later era of the Peshwas.

99. (C) Eastern India
The political landscape of medieval India included powerful regional dynasties that maintained their independence from central imperial rule. The Eastern Gangas and the Suryavamshi Gajapatis were two such important families. They were primarily located in Eastern India, ruling over the region that corresponds to modern-day Odisha. These dynasties were known for their impressive architectural achievements and their ability to defend their territories against neighboring powers, representing a significant center of authority on the eastern coast.

100. (D) The Deccan after the Bahmanis

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The history of Southern India after the fifteenth century focuses heavily on the territories previously controlled by a single unified kingdom. Following the fragmentation of the Bahmani state, five independent sultanates emerged: Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. The study of their rise, territorial expansion, and eventual disintegration forms a central theme in the history of the Deccan region. These successor states played a crucial role in southern politics until they were conquered by the Mughals.

101. (C) Babur
The transition to a new imperial era in the Indian subcontinent began with a decisive military campaign in 1526. Babur, a ruler from Central Asia, invaded North India and defeated the last Lodi Sultan at the Battle of Panipat. This victory is recognized as the foundational event of the Mughal Empire. While later emperors like Akbar would consolidate and expand the state, Babur is the individual responsible for its initial establishment and the introduction of Mughal rule.

102. (B) A sovereign kingdom to pan-Indian ambition.
Under the leadership of the Peshwas, the nature of the Maratha state underwent a significant transformation. Initially founded by Shivaji as a regional sovereign kingdom in the Deccan, the state began to look far beyond its original borders. The expansion led by the Peshwas signaled a shift toward pan-Indian ambitions, as Maratha armies campaigned across North and Central India. This era saw the Marathas emerge as the primary challengers to the declining Mughal authority, seeking continental dominance.

103. (D) The Mughals
The Delhi Sultanate is defined by a specific sequence of five dynasties that governed from the thirteenth century until the early sixteenth century. These included the Turks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis. While the Mughals were a major imperial power that eventually took control of the same territories, they are considered a separate political entity that replaced the Sultanate. Therefore, the Mughals are not classified as one of the constituent dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate period itself.

104. (A) 1 and 4 only
Historical research relies on various verifiable sources, including archival records and physical artifacts. Documents such as pothis and bahis are essential archival records that provide detailed administrative and financial data. Additionally, numismatic evidence is highly useful for historians to establish the chronological order of rulers and determine the geographic extent of their kingdoms. Other types of evidence, such as monuments and regional language texts, are also considered important, contrary to claims that they offer no historical value.

105. (C) The Third Battle of Panipat and internal rivalries
Analyzing the decline of the Maratha power requires investigating both external military defeats and internal political weaknesses. A key event in this study is the Third Battle of Panipat, which significantly damaged Maratha prestige and military strength. Furthermore, historians examine the internal rivalries among the various chiefs within the Maratha Confederacy. These factors, combined with increasing pressure from colonial powers, eventually led to the collapse of Maratha dominance in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

106. (A) The Delhi Sultanate
Military campaigns from Central Asia fundamentally altered the political structure of North India in the late twelfth century. The invasions led by the Ghorids, particularly those of Muhammad Ghori, served as the most direct precursor to the establishment of Islamic rule in the region. These conquests paved the way for the creation of the Delhi Sultanate, as the Ghorid successes allowed for the administrative and military consolidation of power under subsequent Turkish and Afghan dynasties.

107. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Suri dynasty represents a brief but highly significant period in medieval Indian history. Although they ruled for only fifteen years, their reign acted as a crucial interregnum that interrupted the early Mughal timeline and forced Humayun into exile. More importantly, Sher Shah Suri introduced comprehensive administrative and land revenue reforms. These innovations

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period of growth under a new form of leadership. The rule of the Peshwas is primarily associated with the large-scale expansion of Maratha power beyond its original borders. During this era, Maratha armies campaigned across North and Central India, transforming the state from a regional sovereignty into a dominant pan-Indian force that challenged the authority of the declining Mughal Empire.

78. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Historical evidence is categorized based on its format and origin. A coin from a specific reign serves as a numismatic source, while a narrative history like a chronicle is a literary source. Inscriptions found on buildings or monuments are classified as epigraphic evidence. Finally, the written observations of individuals visiting from other regions, such as Persian travelers, constitute foreign travelers' accounts. Correctly matching these sources to their categories is fundamental for conducting systematic historical research.

79. (A) Aurangzeb
The timeline of the Mughal Empire is often divided between the Great Mughals and their successors. The term Later Mughals refers specifically to the series of rulers who held the throne after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. This period is characterized by the gradual weakening of the central government, the loss of vast territories, and the eventual disintegration of the empire's power, marking a sharp contrast to the era of expansion and consolidation.

80. (B) 1, 2, and 3 only
Medieval Indian political history consists of several distinct developments. The Ghorid invasions were the essential precursor to the dynasties that formed the Delhi Sultanate. In the Deccan, the rivalry between the Bahmani and Vijayanagara kingdoms shaped the region's politics for centuries. Furthermore, the Suri dynasty briefly interrupted Mughal rule during the sixteenth century. However, the Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a major power in Eastern India, not Western India, and Aurangzeb is categorized among the Great Mughals.

81. (B) Alliance with the Vijayanagara empire
The study of Maratha history involves several key phases, starting with the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji and continuing through the expansion led by the Peshwas. It also includes the later period of the Maratha Confederacy and its eventual decline. While the Marathas interacted with many groups, a formal alliance with the Vijayanagara Empire is not a recognized or typical phase of their medieval history, as the peak of these two powers occurred in different centuries.

82. (A) Archaeological
Historical sources are grouped based on the type of information they provide and their physical nature. The study of material evidences and monuments, which include buildings, forts, and physical artifacts, falls under the broad category of archaeological sources. These are non-written remains that provide tangible evidence of the architecture, technology, and social life of the past. They complement written literary or epigraphic sources by offering a physical dimension to our understanding of medieval Indian history.

83. (C) Foundation by Babur
The beginning of a new imperial era in India was marked by a specific military event in the early sixteenth century. The foundation of the Mughal Empire is historically tied to the invasion of Babur, who defeated the last Lodi Sultan at the Battle of Panipat in 1526. This victory ended the Sultanate period in Delhi and established the Mughal dynasty as the new dominant power, initiating a long phase of imperial rule that would eventually span the subcontinent.

84. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The study of the Delhi Sultanate is traditionally organized around the successive dynasties that ruled the state, including the Ghorids, Turks, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis. In addition to understanding the peak and consolidation of these dynasties, historians also treat the subsequent decline of the Sultanate as a major subject of investigation. Analyzing the factors that led to its weakening is essential for understanding the eventual transition to Mughal rule in North India.

85. (C) Khandesh
The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom in the Deccan region led to the formation of exactly five successor sultanates. These five independent states were Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar,

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Significant figures in medieval Indian history are directly associated with the foundation or peak of major political entities. Babur is recognized for establishing the Mughal Empire, while Alauddin Khalji was a dominant ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. Shivaji is the founder of the Maratha Swaraj, representing an assertion of independent sovereignty. Finally, Krishnadevaraya is celebrated as the most powerful emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire. Correctly linking these rulers to their states is essential for understanding the period's political developments.

116. (D) The Battle of Panipat where Babur defeated the Lodis
The transition of power in North India from the Sultanate era to the Mughal period was decided by a specific military conflict. The Lodi dynasty, the final ruling group of the Delhi Sultanate, was overturned by the invasion of Babur. In the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, Babur defeated the last Lodi Sultan, Ibrahim Lodi. This victory resulted in the immediate collapse of the Sultanate's authority and allowed Babur to establish the foundation of the Mughal Empire.

117. (C) A Sanskrit text
Historical evidence is categorized based on its format and the type of information it provides. Literary sources are written works that offer insights through narratives, religious ideas, or poetry. A Sanskrit text from the medieval period is a primary example of such a source. In contrast, coins are numismatic evidence, ruins and buildings are archaeological sources, and inscriptions are classified as epigraphic material. Identifying written documents as literary sources is fundamental for analyzing the intellectual and cultural history of the time.

118. (B) Expansion and Consolidation
The phase of the Mughal Empire from the reign of Akbar through that of Aurangzeb represents the period when the state reached its highest level of power and stability. This era is historically characterized as one of significant expansion, as the empire's borders were pushed across the subcontinent. Simultaneously, it was a period of consolidation, during which centralized administrative systems and political institutions were firmly established. This ensures that the vast territories were effectively managed and integrated under imperial control.

119. (D) Marathas – Bengal
Pairing medieval powers with their primary geographical locations is essential for accurate historical mapping. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis ruled Eastern India, the Bahmanis dominated the Deccan, and the Lodis were centered in Delhi. While the Marathas eventually conducted military raids into Bengal, it was not their primary geographical location or home territory. Their base of power was located in the Western Deccan region of Maharashtra, where they established their initial sovereign state and from where they expanded outward.

120. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
The study of the Deccan Sultanates encompasses several key aspects of their existence. This includes investigating the rise of specific states like Bijapur and Golkonda, which emerged following the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom. It also involves analyzing their eventual territorial expansion and their later fragmentation or disintegration under Mughal pressure. However, these sultanates were regional southern powers and are not classified as dynasties that ruled the central Delhi Sultanate, which was located in Northern India.

121. (C) Complex history of conflict and diplomacy
The historical relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha state was multifaceted and changed over time. Rather than being defined by a single mode of interaction, it involved a complex history that included both intense military conflict and sophisticated diplomacy. There were periods of open warfare, as well as strategic treaties, alliances, and negotiations for political recognition. Understanding this relationship requires a nuanced analysis of how both powers sought to navigate the shifting political landscape of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

122. (A) A numismatic source
To obtain direct and specific evidence about a ruler's identity and the timeline of their reign, historians often turn to the study of coins. A numismatic source provides tangible proof of a sovereign's name, their official titles, and the

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were so effective that they later served as a model for the Mughal emperor Akbar, making the Suri period essential for understanding subsequent imperial governance.

108. (B) News reports or court bulletins
State archives, or Daftar Khannas, preserved various types of official documents used for communication and record-keeping. The term akhbarat specifically refers to news reports or official court bulletins generated during the Mughal era. These documents were used to transmit information about court proceedings, regional news, and administrative activities from the provinces to the central authority. They provide historians with a detailed, day-to-day perspective on the operations and interests of the imperial government and its provincial officials.

109. (C) The Vijayanagara Empire
The political landscape of the medieval Deccan was dominated by the coexistence of two powerful states. The Bahmani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire were established around the same time and remained fierce rivals for nearly two centuries. Their constant struggle for territorial control, particularly over the fertile Raichur Doab, was a defining feature of southern Indian politics. This intense rivalry between the two contemporary kingdoms shaped the military and administrative developments of the entire Deccan region during that era.

110. (D) The Later Mughals
The process by which the central authority of the Mughal Empire weakened and its territories fragmented is known as disintegration. This historical phenomenon is primarily associated with the period of the Later Mughals, which followed the death of Aurangzeb. During this phase, the once-powerful imperial structure could no longer maintain control over regional governors or suppress rising powers like the Marathas. Consequently, the empire slowly broke apart into smaller, independent units, ending its era of centralized dominance.

111. (A) 1, 2, 3
The decline of major political entities in medieval India follows a specific chronological order based on when their centralized authority collapsed. The Delhi Sultanate began its terminal decline in the early sixteenth century, culminating in the Mughal conquest. This was followed by the disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate, which split into five successor states. Finally, the Mughal Empire itself underwent a long process of decline and disintegration starting in the eighteenth century, following its peak under the Great Mughals.

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112. (B) Political structures after Peshwa expansion
As Maratha influence grew across the Indian subcontinent during the eighteenth century, the state's governance evolved into a new system. The study of the Maratha Confederacy focuses on the political structures that emerged after the major territorial expansions led by the Peshwas. This system involved a decentralized alliance of powerful chieftains who managed their own regions while maintaining a formal link to the central authority. It represents a shift from the earlier centralized kingdom to a league of semi-autonomous military leaders.

113. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Comprehensive historical studies of the Delhi Sultanate cover its entire existence, from its initial foundation by the Ghorids to the rule of its final dynasty, the Lodis. This narrative includes a detailed examination of each ruling family and their contributions to the state's development. Furthermore, such studies also investigate the various factors that eventually led to the weakening and decline of the Sultanate, providing a complete understanding of the political cycles of rise and fall during that period.

114. (A) The Bahmani Sultanate
The political geography of the Deccan changed significantly due to the fragmentation of a single large kingdom. The five independent sultanates, which included Bijapur and Golkonda, emerged directly from the collapse and disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate. These successor states were formed when regional governors within the Bahmani administration asserted their own independence. This process turned a unified regional empire into a more divided political landscape that lasted until the eventual arrival and conquest by the Mughal forces.

115. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

multiple power centers across different regions, allowing for territorial expansion but also leading to challenges in maintaining a unified political and military strategy.

130. (C) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
The political history of medieval India is defined by several major and interconnected developments across various regions. These include the foundation and later decline of the Delhi Sultanate, which paved the way for the Mughal Empire. The Mughals experienced a phase of expansion and consolidation before their eventual disintegration. In the Deccan, the fragmentation of the Bahmani Sultanate was a key event, alongside the subsequent rise of the Marathas. All these developments are central to understanding the period's overall political narrative.

131. (C) As major regional powers in Eastern India.
Regional dynamics played a crucial role in medieval Indian history, with several dynasties maintaining authority outside the large northern empires. The Eastern Gangas and the Suryavamshi Gajapatis are two notable examples of dynasties that functioned as major regional powers. They were centered in Eastern India, specifically ruling over the territories of present-day Odisha. These states were known for their military success and artistic patronage, maintaining their sovereignty and influence over the eastern coast for several centuries during the medieval period.

132. (D) Mughal Empire
The term disintegration is used to describe the historical process by which a large, centralized state breaks apart into smaller units. This phenomenon occurred significantly with the Bahmani Sultanate, which fragmented into five independent states in the Deccan. A similar process of disintegration is a major theme in the study of the Mughal Empire following the peak of its power. After the death of Aurangzeb, the central authority weakened, leading to the gradual loss of control and the emergence of regional states.

133. (C) Epigraphy studies inscriptions, while numismatics studies coins.
Historians distinguish between different types of non-literary evidence based on their physical form. Epigraphy is the specialized field dedicated to the study of inscriptions that are carved or written on durable surfaces like stone, metal plates, or buildings. On the other hand, numismatics is the study of currency, focusing specifically on coins and related objects. Both fields provide primary data on the chronology, economic conditions, and territorial extent of medieval kingdoms, but they analyze different types of material remains.

134. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The history of the Mughal Empire is typically divided into distinct phases based on the state's strength and territorial reach. The era from Akbar to Aurangzeb is recognized as the period of expansion and consolidation, during which the empire grew and established a powerful administrative framework. Following the death of Aurangzeb, the empire entered a new phase characterized by the rule of the Later Mughals. This later period is defined by the gradual weakening and eventual disintegration of central imperial authority.

135. (D) Factors that led to the end of their imperial dominance.
A complete historical analysis of the Maratha power must include an investigation into its eventual collapse. Studying the causes of the Maratha decline involves examining the internal and external factors that led to the end of their imperial dominance in the subcontinent. This research focuses on decentralization, military challenges, and increasing pressure from other powers. Understanding these reasons is essential for explaining how the Maratha influence was eventually diminished, paving the way for a new era of political control in India.

136. (A) The foundation of the Delhi Sultanate.
The political history of the medieval period in North India is often traced back to the movements of specific groups from Central Asia. The Ghorid invasions and the subsequent establishment of Turkish authority are mentioned as the foundational events of the Delhi Sultanate. These groups introduced new military and administrative systems to the subcontinent, creating a centralized state based in Delhi. Their actions set the stage for the sequence of dynasties

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that would govern the Sultanate for several hundred years.

137. (C) Interplay of Vijayanagara, Bahmani, and successors.
The political history of the medieval Deccan is best understood as a dynamic interaction between several major powers. For nearly two centuries, the region was dominated by the rivalry between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate. Following the collapse of the Bahmani state, its five successor sultanates continued to play a crucial role in the region's affairs. This continuous interplay between these various entities, characterized by both conflict and diplomacy, defined the political landscape of Southern India throughout the medieval period.

138. (A) It provides perspectives away from the imperial court's official language.
While Persian was the official language of administration in many medieval states, it does not represent the entire linguistic and cultural landscape. Including literary sources written in regional languages is vital for a comprehensive history. These sources offer insights into local traditions, social values, and the lives of people living away from the immediate influence of the imperial court. By using regional languages alongside official ones, historians can construct a more diverse and detailed picture of medieval Indian society.

139. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The study of the Maratha Confederacy is fundamental to understanding the political environment of eighteenth-century India. As the central authority of the Mughal Empire declined, a political vacuum was created across the subcontinent. The Maratha Confederacy emerged as a major military and political force that filled this void, asserting its influence over vast territories. Because the Confederacy was the primary power center during this transitional period, its study is essential for explaining the geopolitical shifts that occurred after the Great Mughals.

140. (B) Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Sayyids
Power in the Delhi Sultanate was transferred through a succession of different ruling families. The Khalji dynasty governed first and was succeeded by the Tughlaqs, who further expanded the state's reach. After the decline of Tughlaq influence, the Sayyids took control of the government. This sequence represents a significant portion of the Sultanate's chronological progression. Other options are incorrect because they place later dynasties before earlier ones or include groups that did not belong to the Sultanate era.

141. (C) Disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate
The rise of several independent states in the Deccan was a direct consequence of internal instability within a larger unified kingdom. When the Bahmani Sultanate began to weaken and fragment, its regional governors asserted their own independence. This process led to the emergence of five successor states, including Bijapur, Golkonda, and Ahmadnagar. Therefore, the disintegration of the Bahmani state was the primary historical event that allowed these smaller Deccan Sultanates to rise as sovereign political entities in Southern India.

142. (D) Expansion under the Peshwas
Following the foundation of an independent sovereignty by Shivaji, the Maratha state underwent a major transformation in its structure and reach. After the initial period of establishing Swaraj, the power of the state was significantly expanded under the leadership of the Peshwas. During this phase, Maratha armies carried out campaigns far into North and Central India, transforming the kingdom from a regional Deccan power into a dominant pan-Indian force that challenged all other contemporary political authorities.

143. (A) Monuments
Historical evidence is divided into categories based on its physical form. Archaeological sources consist of tangible, non-written remains from the past. Monuments, such as palaces, forts, and temples, are primary examples of this type of evidence. They provide physical information about the architectural styles, technological skills, and social wealth of the people who built them. In contrast, documents like news bulletins, literary texts, and administrative registers are classified as written sources, belonging to either archival or literary categories.

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144. (B) Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, Lodis
The history of the Delhi Sultanate is defined by the rule of five specific dynasties that governed in succession from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. These families included the early Turks, the Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, the Sayyids, and the Lodis. Together, they established and maintained the centralized authority based in Delhi. Other groups, like the Mughals, Marathas, or Bahmanis, were either successor powers or contemporary regional states that did not belong to the specific structure of the Delhi Sultanate itself.

145. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
Historical figures and political entities are often linked through the foundational events they participated in. Babur is responsible for the foundation of the Mughal Empire, while the Ghorid invasions led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Shivaji is celebrated for the foundation of Maratha Swaraj, asserting independent sovereignty. Additionally, the Bahmani kingdom is recognized as the parent state from which the five Deccan Sultanates eventually emerged. These associations are central to understanding the political transitions of medieval India.

146. (A) Firmans from the Daftar Khannas
To investigate the official decrees and legal orders issued by medieval monarchs, historians consult archival records preserved in record offices. These documents, known as firmans, represent the direct commands of the sovereign and were kept within state archives called Daftar Khannas. Studying these firmans provides primary evidence of a ruler's administrative decisions, land grants, and official policies. This type of archival material is more direct for studying governance than coins, traveler diaries, or general literary compositions in various languages.

147. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The historical study of medieval India is organized around several interconnected political developments and the evidence used to understand them. This includes treating the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire as distinct imperial phases. It also involves analyzing the history of the Deccan through its major kingdoms and sultanates. Furthermore, the rise of the Marathas is studied as a separate but related phenomenon. All these narratives are supported by various categories of historical sources, which provide the essential foundation for our knowledge.

148. (D) The Suris
The early period of Mughal rule in India faced a major threat from rival Afghan factions. The reign of Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, was significantly challenged and eventually interrupted by the rise of the Suri dynasty. Led by Sher Shah Suri, this group defeated the Mughal forces and established their own administration in Delhi for fifteen years. This period is a critical interregnum that forced the Mughals out of power until they were able to reclaim their territories years later.

149. (C) The period of the Later Mughals
The process of disintegration within the Mughal Empire refers to the time when central authority weakened and provinces began to break away. This historical phenomenon is specifically associated with the era of the Later Mughals, which occurred after the death of Aurangzeb. During this phase, internal conflicts and institutional decay led to the gradual fragmentation of the empire's vast territories into smaller, independent states. This transition marks the end of unified Mughal dominance and the rise of regional political power.

150. (B) Vijayanagara
Following the internal instability and collapse of the Bahmani Sultanate, five independent successor states emerged in the Deccan region. These were Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. While the Vijayanagara Empire was a contemporary power and a frequent rival of the Bahmanis, it was not a successor state created from the Bahmani territories. Instead, Vijayanagara was a separate political entity that existed alongside the Bahmani kingdom for nearly two centuries until it eventually fell to a coalition of these sultanates.

151. (D) The creation of an independent Maratha state.
When Shivaji founded the concept of Swaraj in the seventeenth century, his primary objective was the creation of an independent Maratha state. This was not a move for administrative

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was most stable. Finally, the era of the Later Mughals is associated with the decline and disintegration of that imperial power throughout the eighteenth century.

166. (B) Akhbarat
Archival records from the Mughal period provide specific types of information about the functioning of the state. If a historian wants to investigate the news or the day-to-day proceedings of the court, they would specifically look for documents known as akhbarat. These were official bulletins or news reports that recorded information about court events and regional developments. Unlike firmans, which were formal orders, akhbarat focused on the transmission of news and were an essential part of the state's internal communication system.

167. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4
The political history of medieval India followed a clear chronological progression. First, the Delhi Sultanate was established following Turkish invasions in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. This was followed by the rise of the Bahmani Sultanate in the Deccan during the fourteenth century. The Mughal Empire was founded much later, in the early sixteenth century. Finally, the foundation of Swaraj by Shivaji occurred in the seventeenth century. This sequence correctly identifies the order in which these major political forces were established.

168. (A) Odisha
In the medieval period, several important dynasties flourished on the eastern coast of the Indian subcontinent. The Eastern Gangas and the Suryavamshi Gajapatis were prominent regional powers associated with the territory of Eastern India. Specifically, these dynasties ruled over the region that corresponds to the modern-day state of Odisha. They were notable for their strong military presence and their significant contributions to temple architecture and culture, maintaining their independence while other empires dominated the northern and southern regions.

169. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The history of the Deccan is often studied through the lens of a continuous political evolution. The Bahmani Sultanate and the subsequent independent states are treated as part of a single historical narrative for the region. This is because the rise of the five Deccan Sultanates was a direct consequence of the Bahmani kingdom's fragmentation and disintegration. Therefore, understanding the parent kingdom is essential for explaining the origins and development of the successor states that dominated the southern landscape in the later medieval period.

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170. (A) The First Battle of Panipat
The transition between two major imperial eras in North India was marked by a decisive military victory. The end of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of the Mughal Empire occurred at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526. In this conflict, the invader Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the final Sultan of Delhi. This event resulted in the collapse of the Lodi dynasty's power and established Babur as the new dominant ruler, initiating the Mughal phase of Indian history.

171. (D) Shivaji
The study of Mughal-Maratha relations focuses on the interaction between a long-standing empire and a newly emergent regional power. This historical narrative primarily concerns the dynamics between the Mughal sovereigns and the independent Maratha state that was founded by Shivaji. His assertion of sovereignty, or Swaraj, in the seventeenth century created a direct challenge to Mughal authority. This interaction, which involved both military struggle and strategic diplomacy, continued to shape the politics of the subcontinent for more than a century after its inception.

172. (B) The causes of the decline of the Marathas
Historians examine the complete lifespan of various political powers to understand the factors that determine their success and failure. For the Marathas, a specific and significant subject of study is the investigation into the causes of their decline. This research focuses on the internal and external pressures that eventually weakened the state in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Analyzing these reasons is essential for explaining why the once-dominant Maratha power eventually gave way to the expanding influence of colonial forces.

173. (C) Administrative and financial records.

of expansion and consolidation. During these years, the empire's territory grew to cover most of the subcontinent, and central administrative systems were firmly established to ensure effective governance. This period represents the pinnacle of Mughal imperial strength before the onset of the later phase of decline.

159. (B) 1, 3, and 4 only
The history of medieval India involves several accurate political classifications. The Sayyid dynasty was indeed a ruling group within the Delhi Sultanate, and Golkonda was a significant Deccan Sultanate that emerged after the Bahmanis. Furthermore, the expansion of the Maratha empire was a major development led by the Peshwas. However, the Suri dynasty ruled in North India rather than the Deccan, and the foundation of the Mughal Empire was an event separate from the earlier Ghorid invasions that established the Sultanate.

160. (B) The Peshwas
As the Maratha state expanded its influence far beyond its original territories in the eighteenth century, its political organization changed. The concept of the Maratha Confederacy became prominent during the period of the Peshwas. This system was a decentralized alliance that integrated various powerful military chiefs and their respective regions under a shared political framework. While Shivaji established the initial sovereign state, the later confederate structure was the primary method of organization used by the Marathas during their era of pan-Indian dominance.

161. (B) Sophisticated archive and record-keeping
The existence of specific terms for record offices indicates that medieval Indian states had developed advanced bureaucratic systems. The term Daftar Khanna implies that these governments maintained sophisticated archives for record-keeping purposes. These repositories were used to store official documents, including royal orders, revenue data, and news reports. The presence of such dedicated archival spaces allowed for administrative continuity and provided a systematic way for the central authority to manage information, reflecting a high level of organizational capability in medieval governance.

162. (A) The Bahmani Sultanate
The transformation of the political landscape in the Deccan was driven by the internal collapse of a major regional power. The emergence of the five independent sultanates, which included Bijapur and Golkonda, was a direct result of the disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate. When this large, unified kingdom fragmented due to political strife, its regional provinces became sovereign states. This event ended the period of unified Bahmani rule and created a more divided and competitive environment that defined the Deccan for the next century.

163. (C) Epigraphic inscriptions
Historical evidence is broadly divided into literary and non-literary sources based on its format and purpose. Literary sources consist of written works that provide information through narratives or poetry, such as Persian chronicles, Sanskrit texts, and regional language literature. In contrast, epigraphic inscriptions are physical markings carved onto hard surfaces like stone or metal plates. While they contain text, they are classified as an archaeological or non-literary source because they are physical artifacts rather than portable literary compositions or manuscripts.

164. (D) Imperial fragmentation
The later years of the Mughal Empire were marked by a fundamental change in the state's strength and unity. The reign of the Later Mughals is best characterized as a period of imperial fragmentation. During this time, the central authority based in Delhi became increasingly weak, leading to the breakaway of various provinces and the rise of independent regional powers. This phase represents the end of the empire's ability to maintain a unified and centralized government over its vast territorial possessions.

165. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Major milestones in Mughal and Maratha history are linked to specific rulers and phases. Shivaji is the founder of Maratha Swaraj, representing an initial assertion of sovereignty. Babur is responsible for the foundation of the Mughal Empire in 1526. The period from Akbar to Aurangzeb is recognized as the zenith of expansion and consolidation, when the empire

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180. (A) 1 and 2 only
Accurate historical study requires correctly identifying the roles and timelines of different political entities. The Lodi dynasty was indeed the final ruling family of the Delhi Sultanate, and the Bahmani Sultanate was a dominant power in the Deccan for over a century. However, some other descriptions are inaccurate. The Maratha Confederacy was a later development led by the Peshwas, rather than Shivaji himself, and Aurangzeb is categorized as one of the Great Mughals rather than being part of the Later Mughals phase.

181. (C) The emergence of five independent Deccan Sultanates.
The most significant political outcome of the weakening and collapse of the Bahmani kingdom was a major shift in southern Indian governance. Rather than the rise of a new large empire, the disintegration of the Bahmani state led directly to the emergence of five smaller, independent entities. These were Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar, collectively known as the Deccan Sultanates. This change replaced a single unified authority with a more divided and competitive regional landscape that defined the Deccan for several generations.

182. (B) Archaeological (Monuments/Material evidences)
Historical research often utilizes tangible physical remains to understand the past. A scholar who analyzes architectural structures, such as the Qutb Minar or the city of Fatehpur Sikri, is relying on archaeological sources. This category includes monuments and material evidences that provide non-written data about engineering, artistic styles, and the wealth of a regime. Unlike literary chronicles or numismatic coins, these large physical structures offer a direct view of how medieval rulers projected their power and cultural identity through the built environment.

183. (D) expansion
Maratha history is characterized by two distinct phases of political development and growth. After the initial period where Shivaji founded the sovereign Maratha state, the nature of their power changed under a new form of leadership. The rule of the Peshwas is primarily associated with the massive territorial expansion of the Marathas across the Indian subcontinent. During this era, the Marathas transformed from a regional Deccan power into a dominant pan-Indian force that exerted influence over vast areas of North and Central India.

184. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The historical narrative of the Mughal Empire typically spans from its initial establishment by Babur to its final collapse following the period of the Later Mughals. This comprehensive timeline includes all major phases of imperial rule. Within this chronology, the reign of the Suri dynasty is treated as a significant Afghan interregnum. Even though they were a different dynasty, their rule is historically placed in the same timeline because it represented a direct interruption and temporary displacement of the Mughal sovereign power.

185. (C) Babur
The political history of the Delhi Sultanate follows a clear chronological flow from its peak to its eventual collapse. The Sultanate era concluded with the weakening of its central authority under the Lodi dynasty. This decline created the political opportunity for a new invasion from Central Asia. The defeat of the last Lodi Sultan by Babur at the Battle of Panipat signaled the end of the Sultanate and established the context for the foundation of the Mughal Empire, marking a major transition.

186. (A) Suri
The Delhi Sultanate is specifically defined by a sequence of five ruling dynasties that governed from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. These included the Tughlaqs, the Lodis, and the Khaljis, alongside the earlier Turks and the Sayyids. While the Suri dynasty was a major Afghan power that ruled North India for a brief period, it is historically classified as an interregnum within the Mughal period. Therefore, it is not considered one of the five constituent dynasties that formed the Delhi Sultanate structure itself.

187. (D) An established empire (Mughal) and a newly emergent power (Maratha).
The study of Mughal-Maratha relations is an analysis of the interaction between two very different types of political entities in the seventeenth century. It explores the dynamics

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Archival sources provide historians with practical data regarding the daily operations of medieval governments. Terms such as bahis and pothis refer to bound registers or ledgers that were used to maintain administrative and financial records. These sources are most relevant for understanding how the state managed land revenue, recorded expenditures, and tracked bureaucratic activities. By analyzing these registers, researchers can develop a clearer picture of the economic management and organizational structures that supported the authority of various medieval Indian states.

174. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Suri dynasty, although it ruled for only a short period, had a lasting impact on Indian history. Their reign served as a major interregnum that displaced the Mughals and established a new administrative model. Sher Shah Suri, the founder of the dynasty, introduced highly efficient systems for land revenue and governance. These reforms were so successful that they were later adopted and refined by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Therefore, the dynasty's significant contribution to administrative reform justifies its importance in historical studies.

175. (A) The five successor states of the Bahmani Sultanate.
The political geography of the Deccan after the fifteenth century was defined by the fragmentation of a single large kingdom. The five entities known as Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar are best described as the successor states of the Bahmani Sultanate. They emerged when the central Bahmani authority collapsed, and regional governors within the empire declared their independence. These sultanates became the primary political actors in Southern India until they were eventually conquered and integrated into the expanding Mughal Empire centuries later.

176. (B) Khalji → Tughlaq → Sayyid
The transfer of power within the Delhi Sultanate followed a specific dynastic timeline. The Khalji dynasty was an early and powerful ruling family, followed by the Tughlaqs, who expanded the empire's territorial reach. After the peak of Tughlaq power passed, the Sayyid dynasty took control as the next ruling group in the sequence. This order reflects a significant portion of the Sultanate's history. Other sequences are incorrect because they place later dynasties before earlier ones, violating the established chronological progression of medieval Indian power.

177. (B) The Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates (like Bijapur).
When Shivaji established independent Maratha sovereignty, or Swaraj, in the seventeenth century, he was directly challenging the existing political authorities in the region. His actions were a defiance of the authority of both the Mughal Empire, which was seeking to expand southward, and the local Deccan Sultanates, particularly the kingdom of Bijapur. By carving out an independent state, Shivaji forced these major powers to recognize a new regional challenge, which fundamentally altered the power balance and political future of the Deccan plateau.

178. (A) Persian and Arabic travellers' accounts
Reconstructing the history of medieval India requires looking at multiple viewpoints to ensure a balanced narrative. Sources that provide an external perspective are highly valued for this purpose. These primarily include the written accounts of individuals visiting from other regions, such as travelers from Persia and Arabia. These writers recorded their impressions of Indian society, politics, and trade from an outsider's point of view. Their observations complement local chronicles and archival documents by providing different insights that local writers might have overlooked or taken for granted.

179. (C) The eastern coast (Orissa region)
Regional dynamics in medieval India were shaped by powerful dynasties that maintained their independence from northern imperial control. The term Suryavamshi Gajapatis refers to a prominent ruling family that was centered on the eastern coast of India. Specifically, they governed the region corresponding to modern-day Odisha. This dynasty was known for its significant military strength and its patronage of culture and architecture. Their influence along the eastern seaboard made them a major regional power contemporary to the Sultanate and Bahmani states.

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influence during the eighteenth century. This transition is marked by a shift from a centralized monarchy, established during the time of Shivaji, to a new structure known as the Maratha Confederacy. Under the coordination of the Peshwa, this confederacy functioned as a league of various powerful chieftains who managed their own territories and military forces. This arrangement allowed for widespread expansion but represented a more decentralized form of political and military leadership.

195. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only
Medieval Indian history is constructed through several accurate political developments. The Ghorid invasions were the essential precursor to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Similarly, the Suri dynasty is studied as a significant interregnum during the early Mughal period. Furthermore, the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom is a major historical topic for the Deccan. However, some other claims are incorrect, as the decline of the Mughals is a separate phase from their peak, and Shivaji founded Swaraj, not the later confederacy structure.

196. (D) Eastern India
While the large empires of the north often receive the most focus, significant regional dynasties flourished in other parts of the subcontinent. The study of the Suryavamshi Gajapatis provides important insights into the history of Eastern India during the medieval period. Centered in the region of modern-day Odisha, this dynasty was a major political and military power. Their history reflects the regional independence and cultural achievements of the eastern coast, providing a more balanced view of the overall political landscape of medieval India.

197. (C) Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire, Marathas
The term decline is used by historians to describe the final stage in the lifecycle of a major political power. This concept is historically associated with the closing phases of three major entities in the Indian subcontinent: the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughal Empire, and the Maratha power. In each case, historians investigate the internal and external factors that led to the weakening of central authority, territorial loss, and the eventual end of their respective eras of dominance and sovereign rule.

198. (B) The Ghorids and Turks
The political history of the Delhi Sultanate is traditionally traced back to its initial foundation by groups arriving from Central Asia. For anyone studying this period, the most logical starting point is the investigation of the Ghorid invasions and the subsequent establishment of Turkish rule. These early developments created the administrative and military framework that allowed for the subsequent dynasties to govern North India. These foundational events set the stage for the centuries of Sultanate rule that followed in the Indian subcontinent.

199. (B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is the correct explanation.
Archival records from the Mughal era included different types of documents that served distinct purposes. While firmans were formal royal orders or decrees issued by the sovereign, akhbarat were a different category of document. Specifically, akhbarat were news reports or bulletins that recorded information about court proceedings and regional events. Although both were preserved within state archives as part of the official papers, they were not equivalent. Statement II correctly clarifies this distinction, while Statement I wrongly equates two different administrative document types.

200. (A) Aurangzeb
The emergence of the Maratha power in the seventeenth century created a major political and military challenge to the dominant imperial authority in India. The foundation of independent sovereignty, or Swaraj, by Shivaji directly confronted the expansionist policies of the Mughal Empire. This conflict was most intense during the reign of the powerful emperor Aurangzeb, whose long military campaigns in the Deccan were largely focused on suppressing the Maratha rise. This struggle between Shivaji and Aurangzeb is a defining feature of late seventeenth-century Indian history.

201. (C) Babur founded the empire, Humayun inherited it, and the Suris temporarily usurped it from Humayun.

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between the already established and powerful Mughal Empire and the newly emergent Maratha state. This relationship was characterized by the Marathas' assertion of sovereignty in a region previously under imperial influence. Their interactions involved complex shifts in the power balance, as the rising Maratha influence challenged the long-standing dominance of the central Mughal imperial authority.

188. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Documents written by individuals from outside the subcontinent, such as travelers from Persia and Arabia, are essential for historical objectivity. These foreign travelers recorded their observations of Indian society, politics, and customs from an outsider's point of view. Their accounts provide a valuable external perspective that can be compared and contrasted with indigenous sources like royal chronicles or administrative documents. This allows historians to gain a more balanced and comprehensive understanding of the events and conditions of medieval India.

189. (C) The Deccan region
The political history of Southern India is deeply interconnected through the rise and fall of several major powers. The foundation, territorial expansion, and eventual disintegration of independent states like Bijapur and Golkonda are central themes in the study of the Deccan region. These entities emerged following the collapse of the Bahmani kingdom and dominated the southern plateau for generations. Their history explains the geopolitical evolution of the Deccan, reflecting the shifts in power between local sultanates, the Vijayanagara Empire, and the later Mughal expansion.

190. (D) Numismatic sources are primarily concerned with inscriptions on buildings.
Accurate historical terminology is essential for categorizing different types of evidence used in research. Firmans and akhbarat are indeed official records, and literary sources include a variety of linguistic texts. Monuments and artifacts are correctly classified as archaeological evidence. However, the definition of numismatics is often misunderstood. Numismatic sources are primarily concerned with the study of coins and currency, not inscriptions on buildings. The discipline that focuses on studying inscriptions on durable surfaces, including building walls, is properly known as epigraphy.

191. (A) Aurangzeb
The trajectory of the Mughal Empire followed a clear pattern of growth followed by a long phase of weakening. While the empire reached its greatest territorial extent during the reign of Aurangzeb, his death in 1707 marked a major turning point. The subsequent period, characterized as the era of the Later Mughals, was a time of significant decline and political fragmentation. Central authority weakened, regional powers rose, and the once-unified imperial structure began to break apart, marking the end of the empire's era of stability.

192. (B) Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar
The disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate led directly to the formation of a specific group of independent states in Southern India. These entities are recognized as the successor states of the original Bahmani kingdom. They include five specific sultanates: Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, and Berar. Together, these kingdoms dominated the political and military affairs of the Deccan for more than a century after they separated from the central Bahmani authority, until they were eventually absorbed by the expanding Mughal Empire in later centuries.

193. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Historical figures are linked to major milestones in medieval Indian political development. Babur is responsible for the foundation of the Mughal Empire, while the Suri dynasty under Sher Shah Suri represents a significant interruption of Mughal rule. Shivaji is credited with the foundation of Maratha Swaraj, establishing independent sovereignty. Finally, the later expansion of Maratha power into a dominant pan-Indian force occurred under the leadership of the Peshwas. Correctly identifying these roles is essential for understanding the sequence of events across several centuries.

194. (A) A kingdom under Shivaji to a league of chieftains under the Peshwa.
The political organization of the Maratha state underwent a fundamental change as it grew in

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reform within an existing empire or a simple religious movement. Instead, it was a political assertion of sovereignty that sought to establish a government free from the control of the Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates. The establishment of Swaraj marked the birth of the Maratha power as a distinct and sovereign political entity.

152. (A) The establishment of the Mughal Empire.
The political history of North India follows a logical progression from one major imperial phase to the next. The study of the Delhi Sultanate's decline, characterized by the weakening of the Lodi dynasty, leads directly to the next major development. This decline created the political vulnerability that allowed for the invasion of Babur and the subsequent establishment of the Mughal Empire. Thus, the end of the Sultanate period is the immediate historical precursor to the beginning of the Mughal era in the subcontinent.

153. (B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
Historical accuracy requires distinguishing between the different phases of Maratha leadership. Shivaji is the individual credited with the initial foundation of Swaraj, establishing an independent Maratha sovereignty in the seventeenth century. While the Peshwas later became very powerful and were responsible for the widespread territorial expansion of the state across India, they did not found the original sovereign entity. Therefore, Statement I is incorrect because it misattributes the foundation to the Peshwas, whereas Statement II correctly identifies the historical roles.

154. (A) It completes the historical arc of their rise, dominance, and eventual fall.
A comprehensive understanding of any major power requires studying its entire existence from its beginning to its end. For the Marathas, analyzing the causes of their decline is essential because it completes the historical arc that starts with their rise and peak dominance. By examining why the state eventually weakened and collapsed, historians can provide a full account of the political cycles that affected the Indian subcontinent. This ensures that the study covers the complete lifespan of the Maratha political entity.

155. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Historians distinguish between different categories of evidence based on the nature of the information they provide. Archaeological sources, which include tangible remains like monuments and physical material evidences, offer non-written data about architecture and culture. In contrast, literary sources such as narrative chronicles and religious Sanskrit texts provide written records of events and ideas. Because these two types of sources offer fundamentally different perspectives and data points, they are treated as distinct but complementary categories for the study of medieval India.

156. (B) The Deccan
The medieval period in the southern part of the Indian subcontinent is defined by the presence of large and competing powers. The study of the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate is central to understanding the history of the Deccan region. These two kingdoms dominated the plateau for several centuries, and their rivalry shaped the political and military developments of the area. For any historian studying the Deccan, these entities represent the primary actors whose history explains the region's overall medieval evolution.

157. (C) Persian literary sources, Daftar Khannas, Bahis, Travellers' Accounts
Systematic historical research on medieval India utilizes a variety of written and archival evidence. Key sources include literary works in languages like Persian, which were often official chronicles, and the records found in state archives known as Daftar Khannas. Additionally, accounting registers called bahis and the observations found in foreign travelers' accounts provide essential data. These sources are all recognized categories that offer both official and external viewpoints, allowing historians to reconstruct the administrative, political, and social life of the medieval period with greater detail.

158. (D) Akbar to Aurangzeb
The Mughal Empire underwent its most significant phase of development and institutional growth following its initial foundation. The period spanning from the reign of Akbar to that of Aurangzeb is historically recognized as the era

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The early phase of the Mughal presence in India followed a specific sequence of succession and conflict. Babur established the foundation of the empire in 1526, and his son Humayun inherited the throne. However, the continuity of their rule was broken when the Suri dynasty, led by Sher Shah Suri, defeated the Mughal forces. The Suris temporarily usurped the power, forcing Humayun into exile for fifteen years. This relationship defines the initial period of struggle before the empire was eventually restored and consolidated by later rulers.

202. (A) Daftar Khannas / Archival Records
Official administrative documents such as royal orders, news bulletins, and bound registers are classified under a specific source category. Documents like firmans, bahis, pothis, and akhbarat are all examples of material preserved within state record offices, known as Daftar Khannas. These archival records provide primary evidence of how a medieval state was governed, including its financial management, judicial decisions, and internal communication. They are distinct from literary works or physical physical ruins, representing the systematic documentation produced by the administration during that period.

203. (D) Self-rule and sovereignty
The concept of Swaraj, as introduced by Shivaji in the seventeenth century, represents a fundamental political idea. In the historical context of his actions, Swaraj specifically implies the assertion of self-rule and independent sovereignty. This movement was aimed at establishing a political entity that was autonomous and free from the control of the Mughal Empire and the neighboring Deccan Sultanates. By founding Swaraj, Shivaji was not just initiating a reform but was declaring the right of the Marathas to govern their own sovereign state.

204. (B) Rise of various regional powers, including the Marathas.
Historical patterns of imperial decline often lead to similar political outcomes. The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom in the Deccan directly resulted in the rise of five independent successor sultanates. Similarly, the decline and eventual disintegration of the Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century created the political space for the emergence of several regional powers. Among these, the Marathas were the most prominent force that expanded their influence as central authority weakened. In both cases, the collapse of a large power facilitated regional fragmentation.

205. (C) Maratha-Vijayanagara conflict
The study of Maratha history focuses on several well-documented phases and interactions. These include the foundation of Swaraj, the expansion under the Peshwas, and the dynamics of the Maratha Confederacy. Historians also examine the complex relationship between the Marathas and the Mughal Empire. However, a major conflict between the Marathas and the Vijayanagara Empire is not a standard part of this study, as the peak periods of these two powers did not overlap, with Vijayanagara collapsing before the rise of the Maratha state.

206. (D) Disintegration under the Later Mughals
The comprehensive study of the Mughal Empire encompasses its entire existence, beginning with its foundation by Babur in the early sixteenth century. The historical arc of the empire continues through its era of peak power and eventually covers its final stage. This concluding phase is characterized by the period of the Later Mughals, during which the empire experienced a gradual process of disintegration. Analyzing this collapse is essential for a complete understanding of how the once-dominant imperial structure eventually broke apart into various independent regional units.

207. (A) Foreign travellers' accounts provide an external perspective.
Utilizing multiple types of evidence is fundamental for constructing a balanced history of medieval India. While indigenous sources like royal chronicles and administrative records are essential, they are often written from an internal viewpoint. In contrast, foreign travelers' accounts, written by individuals from other regions like Persia and Arabia, are valuable because they provide an external perspective. These outsiders recorded details about society and politics that local writers might have overlooked. This variety of sources ensures that historians can develop a more objective and detailed historical narrative.

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The administrative experiments of the Khalji and Tughlaq dynasties demonstrate the immense power concentrated within the sultanate. These rulers possessed the authority to implement radical changes in economic geography, fiscal policy, and urban planning. Although the outcomes of these projects varied from successful stabilization to catastrophic failure, they highlight a period where the state actively sought to reshape society.

266. (B) It weakened the Sultanate's central control over time
Firoz Shah Tughlaq sought to ensure immediate stability by adopting a policy of appeasement toward the nobility and religious leaders. By reviving the jagir system and making administrative positions hereditary, he gained temporary political support. However, these concessions gradually undermined the central authority of the state, as power became increasingly decentralized among local elites, eventually contributing to the sultanate's decline.

267. (B) left Delhi devastated and accelerated the Sultanate's disintegration
The invasion by Timur in 1398 served as a catastrophic turning point for the Tughlaq dynasty. The resulting destruction of Delhi created a massive political vacuum and left the sultanate in a state of anarchy. This external shock decisively broke the remaining power of the central government, facilitating the rise of regional kingdoms and smaller dynasties with only limited authority.

268. (A) Its nature as a confederacy of Afghan nobles prone to infighting
The Lodi dynasty operated under a unique power structure that was essentially a confederacy of various Afghan noble families. Unlike a centralized autocracy, this system relied on the cooperation of powerful chieftains who viewed themselves as equals to the Sultan. This inherent structural decentralized nature made the dynasty highly vulnerable to internal jealousies, frequent rebellions, and devastating political infighting.

269. (C) The Sayyid dynasty
Following the devastation caused by the invasion of Timur and the subsequent collapse of Tughlaq power, the Sayyid dynasty assumed control. However, their rule was characterized by extremely limited influence, restricted primarily to the areas surrounding Delhi. They were unable to restore central authority over the provinces, and their ineffective governance eventually gave way to the rise of Afghan leaders.

270. (D) imperial overstretch, weakening of central authority, and foreign invasions
The disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate was the result of multiple intersecting factors over a long period. Imperial overstretch during the Tughlaq era led to provincial rebellions and the emergence of independent kingdoms. These internal pressures were exacerbated by the weakening of central authority through appeasement policies and the final, devastating blow delivered by significant foreign invasions.

271. (C) advanced military tactics and use of firearms
Babur's decisive victory at the First Battle of Panipat was primarily due to his innovative and superior military methods. He effectively utilized gunpowder firearms and artillery, which were relatively new to the Indian subcontinent. Additionally, his use of the tulughma, a strategic flanking maneuver, allowed his smaller force to outmaneuver and defeat the much larger army of the Sultan.

272. (B) The introduction of crucial administrative and revenue reforms
Although the Suri dynasty was short-lived, the reign of Sher Shah Suri was highly influential due to his systemic administrative changes. He introduced a standardized currency and developed an extensive network of roads to improve connectivity and trade. His most significant contribution was a systematic land revenue assessment system, which provided a durable framework that later rulers adopted.

273. (D) constant struggles, loss of the throne, and eventual restoration
The reign of Humayun was a turbulent period marked by continuous challenges from his own brothers and resilient Afghan nobles. These conflicts eventually led to his decisive defeat and expulsion from India by Sher Shah Suri. After years in exile, Humayun managed to reclaim his throne with external military assistance,

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215. (D) Mughals
The internal weakening of the Delhi Sultanate during the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries resulted in a loss of central control across North India. This decline reached its final stage during the rule of the Lodi dynasty. The resulting power vacuum and political fragmentation created the conditions that allowed for a successful foreign invasion. The invasion led by Babur ultimately overturned the last Lodi Sultan, leading to the collapse of the Sultanate and the establishment of a new dominant power, which became the Mughal Empire.

216. (B) Warangal
The fragmentation of the Bahmani Sultanate in the Deccan plateau resulted in the formation of a specific group of five independent states. These successor sultanates were Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. While Warangal was a significant regional kingdom in the same geographical area, it was not one of the five specific entities that emerged directly from the disintegration of the Bahmani state. These five successor sultanates played a central role in southern politics until they were eventually conquered and integrated into the Mughal Empire.

217. (C) After Shivaji's initial foundation of Swaraj.
The history of the Maratha power is divided into several chronological segments based on leadership. The expansion of Maratha influence far beyond its original borders is a phase that occurred after the initial foundation of independent sovereignty, or Swaraj, by Shivaji. This period of large-scale territorial growth is specifically associated with the leadership of the Peshwas during the eighteenth century. They transformed the kingdom from a regional Deccan power into a dominant pan-Indian force that exerted influence over vast areas of Central and North India.

218. (A) They are all primary, non-literary (archaeological) sources.
Historical research utilizes different categories of evidence to build a comprehensive picture of the past. Epigraphy, numismatics, and monuments all share a common characteristic: they are primary, non-literary sources. These are also often grouped under the broad category of archaeological evidence because they consist of physical artifacts and tangible remains. Whether it is inscriptions on stone, metallic coins, or large buildings, these sources provide objective data that complements the written narratives found in literary chronicles and archival record offices during the medieval period.

219. (D) Aurangzeb
In the history of the Mughal Empire, a major transition occurred following the era of greatest expansion. The phase categorized as the period of the Later Mughals and the subsequent disintegration of central authority focuses on the events that took place after the death of the powerful emperor Aurangzeb. His passing in 1707 marked the end of the Great Mughals' era and initiated a period of gradual weakening, during which the empire lost control over its distant provinces and faced the rise of new regional powers.

220. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
To develop a complete and balanced understanding of medieval Indian history, researchers must draw upon several different types of source material. Narrative chronicles and royal firmans provide the official and political perspective, while foreign travelers' accounts offer an outsider's view. Additionally, physical evidence such as monuments and numismatic materials like coins provide tangible proof of architectural skills and economic conditions. Together, these five categories of evidence are all considered correct and essential sources that provide the foundational data needed for historical reconstruction.

221. (C) The Deccan
The political landscape of the southern part of the Indian subcontinent during the medieval period was dominated by two powerful rival entities. The rivalry between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate was the most significant and defining political feature of the Deccan region. These two states remained in constant competition for nearly two centuries, and their struggle for territorial control and resources shaped the military and administrative developments of the entire plateau. Their history is fundamental to understanding the overall political narrative of the medieval Deccan.

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power was increasingly shared among several powerful military chiefs who managed their own territories. This combination of widespread territorial reach and a more fragmented form of governance defined the final phase of Maratha dominance before their eventual decline.

236. (B) Hagiographical
Historians utilize several well-established categories of evidence to ensure that their reconstructions are based on verifiable facts. Common source types for medieval India include epigraphic inscriptions, numismatic coins, and archaeological remains like monuments. While hagiographical works—which focus on the idealized lives of saints—exist from the period, they are not typically categorized as a primary historical source in the same way. This is because they are often more focused on religious devotion and moral lessons rather than providing accurate and neutral data on political or administrative events.

237. (C) Expansion and Consolidation
The period of the Mughal Empire from the reign of Akbar through Aurangzeb is recognized as its greatest era of power and influence. This phase is historically defined as one of significant expansion and consolidation. During these decades, the empire's territorial limits were pushed to include nearly the entire subcontinent. At the same time, the central government established and strengthened the administrative systems and political institutions that allowed for stable and unified rule. This period represents the zenith of the empire's imperial strength and organizational capability.

238. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The study of any historical period traditionally starts with a discussion of the evidence used to understand it. This is because historical research is entirely dependent on the nature, biases, and limitations of the sources available. Understanding these factors is fundamental to the study of history itself, as it allows researchers to evaluate the credibility of information and develop a more objective narrative. Therefore, a foundational discussion of sources is essential for anyone seeking to reconstruct and understand the political and social conditions of medieval India.

239. (A) The Lodis
The political trajectory of the Delhi Sultanate spans several centuries of rule by different dynasties. The history of this state begins with the foundations laid by the Ghorid invasions and subsequent Turkish rule. This era eventually came to an end in the early sixteenth century during the reign of its final dynasty, the Lodis. The defeat of the last Lodi Sultan by the invader Babur at the First Battle of Panipat marked the conclusion of the Sultanate period and the transition to a new imperial era under the Mughals.

240. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
Several interconnected developments define the political landscape of medieval India. The rule of the Suri dynasty is presented as an interregnum that interrupted the Mughal timeline. In the Deccan, the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms are studied as major regional powers. Additionally, the expansion of Maratha power under the Peshwas and the eventual decline of the Mughal Empire are central historical topics. All these statements are correct, as they accurately describe the major themes and transitions that historians analyze to understand the political evolution of the medieval period.

241. (B) The successor states of the Bahmani kingdom.
The history of Southern India after the fifteenth century is dominated by the emergence of several independent sultanates. The entities known as Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, and Ahmadnagar are primarily studied as the successor states of the Bahmani kingdom. They were formed following the disintegration of the central Bahmani authority and functioned as sovereign political units within the Deccan region. Analyzing their rise and eventual collapse is essential for understanding the political and military dynamics of the Deccan before its final integration into the Mughal imperial system.

242. (A) Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb
The complex interaction between the Mughal Empire and the emergent Maratha power became a primary feature of seventeenth-century Indian politics. While earlier interactions existed, the study of Mughal-Maratha relations focuses

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dynasties before being overturned by the Mughal invasion.

229. (C) The factors leading to their eventual decline.
A complete historical study of the Marathas covers the entire duration of their political existence. This narrative begins with the foundation of an independent sovereignty by Shivaji and continues through the massive territorial expansion led by the Peshwas. Crucially, the study also includes an investigation into the various factors that eventually led to the weakening and decline of their power. By analyzing this final phase, historians can provide a comprehensive account of how the Maratha dominance was established, maintained, and ultimately lost in the nineteenth century.

230. (B) An Afghan interregnum
The timeline of the Mughal Empire in India was not completely continuous during its first few decades. The rule of the Suri dynasty, which took control of North India in the mid-sixteenth century, represents a distinct period where Mughal authority was temporarily suspended. Historians term this era an Afghan interregnum because it was a fifteen-year break in the sequence of Mughal rulers, occurring between the reigns of Humayun and Akbar. This period is significant for its administrative reforms and its direct impact on the subsequent restoration of the Mughal state.

231. (D) A written, narrative account of historical events, often in chronological order.
Various types of documents are used as primary sources, each with a different format and purpose. A chronicle is specifically defined as a written, narrative account of historical events, which is typically organized in chronological order. These works were often composed by court-appointed writers or scholars to record the achievements of a ruler or a dynasty. Chronicles provide historians with detailed descriptions of political activities, military campaigns, and administrative changes, making them a foundational literary source for understanding the narrative of medieval Indian history.

232. (B) Statement II is a more accurate description.
Historical processes like the end of an empire are rarely the result of a single, sudden event. While the defeat of the Lodi dynasty by Babur was the final blow, historians recognize that the decline of the Delhi Sultanate was a much longer process of internal and external weakening. This decay of central authority and political fragmentation occurred over several decades, making the Sultanate vulnerable to invasion. Therefore, describing the decline as a gradual process that culminated in the Lodi defeat provides a more accurate and comprehensive historical explanation.

233. (C) Predecessor and successor
The political history of the Deccan region is characterized by the transition of power from a single large state to several smaller ones. The relationship between the Bahmani Sultanate and the five Deccan Sultanates, such as Bijapur and Golkonda, is fundamentally one of predecessor and successor. The original Bahmani kingdom ruled as a unified power for many years, but its internal collapse and disintegration led directly to the emergence of these five independent states. Therefore, the Bahmani state is the direct political ancestor of the subsequent Deccan Sultanates.

234. (B) Linguistic diversity
The category of literary sources used for studying medieval India highlights the rich cultural and intellectual environment of the period. By including works written in Persian, Sanskrit, and various regional languages, historians are acknowledging the linguistic diversity of the available source material. Each language represents a different social or administrative sphere, providing a variety of perspectives on the past. This multifaceted approach ensures that the historical narrative is not limited to a single viewpoint, instead incorporating the diverse voices and traditions that existed throughout the medieval era.

235. (D) Peak expansion and subsequent decentralization
The nature of the Maratha political structure evolved as its influence grew during the eighteenth century. The Maratha Confederacy is associated with the period when the state reached its peak expansion across the Indian subcontinent under the leadership of the Peshwas. This era also saw a shift toward decentralization, as

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249. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Reconstructing the past requires utilizing several categories of primary physical evidence. Numismatic sources, such as coins, are essential for historians to determine the names of rulers and the precise regnal periods of various dynasties. Simultaneously, epigraphic sources provide another type of reliable data. Inscriptions found on hard surfaces like temple walls or pillars often record royal proclamations, donations, or diplomatic events. Both coins and inscriptions are considered correct and vital sources because they provide verifiable, contemporary information that complements the narrative accounts found in written chronicles.

250. (A) The rise and fall of successive large-scale empires and regional powers.
The political trajectory of medieval India is typically defined by the emergence, expansion, and eventual collapse of various dominant regimes. This includes the major pan-Indian empires centered in Delhi alongside influential regional kingdoms. Historians analyze these cycles of imperial dominance and fragmentation to understand the shifts in governance and territorial control. This narrative provides a cohesive framework for examining the complex transitions and political developments throughout the medieval era.

251. (B) Daftar Khannas containing Bahis and Firmans
The administrative archives, known as Daftar Khannas, served as the primary repository for detailed state documentation. These collections included official royal orders called Firmans and financial ledgers known as Bahis or Pothis. Such records provided granular insights into the functioning of the state, particularly regarding micro-level economic policies, revenue collection methods, and administrative transactions throughout the period.

252. (A) A perspective that is predominantly court-centric and potentially biased
Persian chronicles typically offered narratives focused on the royal court and political events from an elite perspective. While these documents serve as vital repositories of information, they frequently contain inherent biases and reflect the specific interests of their authors. Consequently, relying exclusively on such records limits historical understanding to a court-centric view, neglecting broader social or regional developments.

253. (C) To help establish timelines and understand economic conditions
Numismatic sources, consisting of various coins, provide unique data points for historical reconstruction. These artifacts are essential for establishing accurate chronologies of different rulers and dynasties. Furthermore, studying coinage helps historians map the territorial extent of kingdoms, analyze prevailing economic conditions, and evaluate the metallurgical skills and technological advancements achieved by diverse civilizations throughout the medieval era.

254. (D) They offer alternative perspectives by focusing on local and non-courtly subjects
Sanskrit and regional language texts serve as a crucial counterbalance to the dominant Persian historiography. These sources often focus on local dynasties, religious movements, and specific social customs that might be overlooked in court-centric records. By providing alternative perspectives, they offer a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse social and cultural landscape across various regions during the medieval period.

255. (C) providing a physical context for events described in textual records
Archaeological sources, encompassing material remains and monuments, offer tangible evidence of past civilizations. These physical remnants provide a concrete context for the events and descriptions found in literary and textual records. By examining settlement patterns and architectural styles, historians can verify historical accounts and gain a deeper understanding of the technological and cultural progress achieved by ancient societies.

256. (B) Iltutmish
Although the Delhi Sultanate began with the Ghorid invasions, the task of establishing a stable administrative framework fell to Iltutmish. He secured the throne from various rivals and introduced essential reforms like a standardized currency. By creating a new ruling class and building strong institutional

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most heavily on the dynamics during the reigns of Shah Jahan and, especially, Aurangzeb. These interactions involved intense military struggles for control over the Deccan plateau and strategic diplomatic negotiations. This era of conflict and rivalry between the two powers determined the future political direction of the subcontinent as the Mughals faced an increasingly persistent regional challenge.

243. (C) Mughal Empire and Deccan Sultanates
When Shivaji established independent Maratha sovereignty, known as Swaraj, in the seventeenth century, he was directly challenging the existing political order. This assertion of self-rule was a defiance of the authority of two major forces in the region: the Mughal Empire and the various Deccan Sultanates, such as the kingdom of Bijapur. By founding an independent state, Shivaji created a new center of power that refused to accept the suzerainty of the established imperial systems, fundamentally altering the power dynamics of the entire Indian subcontinent.

244. (D) Firman
Archival record offices, or Daftar Khannas, were used by medieval administrations to preserve several different types of official papers. Among these, the document specifically containing a royal order or decree from the monarch is known as a firman. These papers were essential for the legal and administrative functioning of the government, providing authoritative evidence of the ruler's decisions regarding land, appointments, and policy. Historians value firmans because they offer a direct, primary record of the sovereign's will, which is more specific than narrative chronicles or financial ledgers.

245. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Major dynasties and political entities are linked to specific foundational figures. The Turkish rule of the Delhi Sultanate was initiated by early leaders like Qutb-ud-din Aibak, following the Ghorid invasions. Babur is responsible for founding the Mughal Empire in 1526. Shivaji is celebrated as the individual who established the foundation of Maratha Swaraj, representing independent sovereignty. Finally, the Suri dynasty was established by Sher Shah Suri as a significant Afghan interregnum. Correctly matching these rulers and entities is fundamental for understanding the political history of the medieval period.

246. (B) The rule of the Later Mughals was a period characterized by disintegration.
Historical studies often link the reigns of specific rulers with the broader political conditions of their time. The phase known as the Later Mughals is closely associated with the disintegration of the empire. This implies that the rule of these subsequent sovereigns was a period characterized by the gradual weakening of central authority and the fragmentation of imperial territories. During this time, the once-unified state broke apart as various provinces became independent and new powers rose, representing the end of the Mughal era of consolidated and stable political dominance.

247. (D) Bahmani Sultanate → Deccan Sultanates → Vijayanagara Empire
Historical sequences are determined by the chronological rise and fall of political entities. While some sequences involving the Sultanate, Mughals, and Marathas are correct, others are inaccurate. The description of the Bahmani state leading into the Deccan Sultanates is correct, but placing the Vijayanagara Empire after them is chronologically incorrect. The Vijayanagara Empire was a contemporary and rival of the Bahmanis and was already established before the Bahmani state disintegrated into the smaller sultanates, meaning it did not follow them in a linear sequence of power.

248. (A) Maratha Confederacy that existed under the Peshwas.
Analyzing the decline of the Maratha power requires investigating the specific political structure that existed during the state's later years. The study of the causes of Maratha decline focuses on the internal and external factors that weakened the Maratha Confederacy, which had emerged under the leadership of the Peshwas. This research examines why this decentralized alliance of powerful chiefs eventually lost its dominance in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Understanding these reasons is essential for explaining how the once-mighty Maratha influence was finally overcome by other contemporary forces.

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222. (D) The building of strong administrative and political structures.
Historical phases are often defined by the primary goals of the state during that time. In the phrase expansion and consolidation, used to describe the Mughal Empire from Akbar to Aurangzeb, the term consolidation implies more than just conquest. It refers to the deliberate process of building and strengthening the administrative and political structures necessary to manage a vast territory. This involved creating systematic land revenue systems, a clear military hierarchy, and a centralized bureaucracy, all of which ensured the empire's internal stability and long-term imperial power.

223. (A) The Suris established an empire in the Deccan.
Historical accuracy involves correctly placing medieval dynasties within their primary geographical regions. While several statements about the Lodis, Bahmanis, and Shivaji are correct, the claim regarding the Suris is factually inaccurate. The Suri dynasty was a North Indian Afghan power centered in Delhi, where it established its authority after displacing the Mughals. It did not establish an empire in the Deccan region, which was dominated during that same period by the various Deccan Sultanates and the lingering influence of the Vijayanagara Empire.

224. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Investigating the final phase of any major political entity is a crucial part of historical scholarship. For the Marathas, the study of the causes of their decline is an important subject because it provides necessary insights into the broader political changes of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. By explaining why a once-dominant imperial force eventually weakened and fell, historians can better understand the overall dynamics of the subcontinent during that time, including the transition toward the colonial era and the fragmentation of regional powers.

225. (B) The succession of various dynasties and the eventual decline.
The history of the Delhi Sultanate is traditionally presented as a structured narrative of its political lifecycle. A key theme in this study is the succession of the five distinct dynasties that governed the state from the thirteenth to the early sixteenth century. This includes examining how each family rose to power, maintained control, and eventually gave way to the next. The study also investigates the factors that led to the Sultanate's ultimate decline, providing a complete account of its historical arc before the Mughal conquest.

226. (A) Comprehensive and grassroots-level perspective.
While official records in Persian often reflect the interests of the imperial court, they do not always capture the full experience of medieval society. The study of literary sources written in regional languages is essential because it offers a more comprehensive and grassroots-level perspective. These works often reflect local cultural values, religious movements, and the social concerns of common people living outside the immediate reach of the central administration. By incorporating regional languages, historians can develop a more balanced and detailed view of history.

227. (C) Establishment of the Turkish rule in Delhi.
Military campaigns arriving from Central Asia at the end of the twelfth century fundamentally changed the direction of North Indian politics. The Ghorid invasions were the direct catalyst that led to the establishment of Turkish rule in Delhi. These conquests shifted the power balance in the region, allowing for the creation of the first organized Islamic state in Northern India. This development marked the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate era, initiating several centuries of rule by successive Turkish and Afghan dynasties over the Indian subcontinent.

228. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Different historical entities are categorized based on their geographical location and the specific context of their power. The Suryavamshi Gajapatis were a major regional power in Eastern India. The Deccan Sultanates were the successor states that emerged following the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom. The period of the Later Mughals represents the rulers of a disintegrating pan-Indian empire. Finally, the Delhi Sultanate is identified as the pre-Mughal North Indian empire that governed through several successive

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foundations, he transformed the initial conquests into a permanent sovereign state, earning his reputation.

257. (D) a new ruling class of Turkic nobles created by Iltutmish
The Turkan-i-Chahalgani, also known as the Group of Forty, was an elite administrative and military body. This new ruling class consisted of Turkic nobles established by Iltutmish to consolidate his power and manage the state. By institutionalizing this group, the Sultan aimed to create a loyalist base that could support the nascent Sultanate against internal rivals and external threats.

258. (A) The combination of internal resistance and external threats like the Mongols
The early years of the Delhi Sultanate were marked by persistent instability and multiple dangers. The state faced significant internal resistance from defeated Rajput chieftains and competing commanders from the original Ghorid campaigns. Additionally, the formidable presence of the Mongols on the northwestern frontier posed a constant external threat, forcing the Sultans to prioritize military defense alongside consolidation.

259. (C) The death of Muhammad of Ghor
The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate was catalyzed by the sudden death of Muhammad of Ghor in 1206. This event created a significant power vacuum among his various commanders in northern India. Qutb-ud-din Aibak, his prominent lieutenant, successfully filled this void by declaring sovereignty. This transition transformed military territories into a formal sultanate with its initial capital at Lahore.

260. (A) a period of consolidation and institution-building by Turkic slave-generals
The transition from the Ghorid invasions to a formal state was a gradual process rather than a single event. It involved the active consolidation of territories by Turkic slave-generals after their leader's death. This period was characterized by the creation of administrative structures and institutional frameworks necessary to govern a sovereign state while navigating military conflicts with regional rivals.

261. (D) To support a large standing army and control inflation
Alauddin Khalji implemented revolutionary economic reforms primarily to maintain the massive military force required for his imperial expansions. These regulations included strict price controls on essential goods and the creation of regulated markets. By managing the supply and cost of commodities, the state aimed to curb inflation and ensure that soldiers could survive on fixed salaries despite economic pressures.

262. (B) the inability of the state to prevent mass counterfeiting
Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced brass and copper coins as token currency, intended to have the same value as silver coins. While the concept was theoretically sound, the state lacked the mechanisms to control the minting process effectively. This led to widespread counterfeiting by the public, which eventually forced the government to abandon the experiment and suffer significant financial losses.

263. (C) Khalji's market reforms were largely successful, while Tughlaq's major projects were often disastrous
The reigns of these two rulers were characterized by intense administrative experimentation with varying degrees of success. Alauddin Khalji's market regulations and economic controls were effectively enforced and achieved their goals of stabilizing prices. In contrast, the ambitious projects undertaken by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, such as the capital transfer and token currency, resulted in immense hardship and significant failures.

264. (D) the institution of a regulated market
The Shahna-i-Mandi was a critical component of the economic reforms established during the Khalji dynasty. This institution functioned as a regulated market where prices and supplies were strictly monitored by state officials. Such measures were designed to ensure the availability of essential grains and commodities at fixed prices, supporting both the urban population and the state's large standing military.

265. (A) rulers possessed significant power to attempt large-scale socio-economic changes

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208. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The medieval history of the Deccan region is largely defined by the presence of two powerful and rival entities. The Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate dominated the political landscape for nearly two centuries, and their constant competition for resources and territory shaped the region's development. Because these kingdoms were the primary actors in the Deccan during this period, studying both is essential for anyone seeking to understand the political and military dynamics of southern India at that time.

209. (B) Suryavamshi Gajapatis
In the medieval period, the region of Eastern India was governed by several prominent and successive dynasties that maintained their independence. In historical studies, the Eastern Gangas are frequently mentioned in conjunction with the Suryavamshi Gajapatis. These two dynasties represent the most significant political powers centered in modern-day Odisha. Together, they are celebrated for their strong military defense of the eastern coast and their patronage of unique architectural styles, providing a distinct regional narrative that complements the history of the large northern and southern empires.

210. (A) 1, 3, 4, 2
The political history of the Delhi Sultanate follows a clear chronological progression through its successive ruling families. The Khalji dynasty rose to prominence in the late thirteenth century, followed by the Tughlaqs, who expanded the state's influence during the fourteenth century. After the collapse of Tughlaq power, the Sayyid dynasty briefly governed before the Lodi dynasty took control as the final ruling group of the Sultanate era. This sequence correctly reflects the established timeline of power within the central administration based in Delhi.

211. (C) Humayun - Interruption by the Suris
Historical figures are often paired with the major challenges or phases that defined their time on the throne. The reign of Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, is notably associated with a significant interruption by the Suri dynasty. After his initial rule, he was defeated and forced into exile by Sher Shah Suri, which created a fifteen-year break in Mughal authority. Other associations, such as linking Babur to consolidation or Shivaji to the later Peshwa expansion, are historically inaccurate as they misplace the figures' roles or timelines.

212. (D) More decentralized than Shivaji's initial kingdom.
The political organization of the Maratha state underwent a fundamental change as it expanded in the eighteenth century. While the initial sovereign state founded by Shivaji was characterized by a highly centralized monarchy, the later Maratha Confederacy was structured differently. This later system was more decentralized, functioning as an alliance of various powerful military chiefs who managed their own regions. While they maintained a shared political framework under the coordination of the Peshwa, this confederate model represented a shift away from the original unified and centralized state structure.

213. (C) Royal command or order
Administrative vocabulary is essential for understanding the official records of medieval Indian history. The term firman refers specifically to a formal royal command or decree issued by a sovereign ruler, such as a Sultan or a Mughal Emperor. These documents were used to communicate official decisions regarding land assignments, appointments to administrative posts, and new legal regulations. As a primary source, firmans provide direct evidence of the monarch's will and are indispensable for researchers investigating the political and bureaucratic operations of the imperial government.

214. (B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II provides the correct breakdown.
Systematic historical analysis often divides long periods of rule into distinct phases to better understand their evolution. While Mughal rule spanned several centuries, it is not treated as a single, uniform narrative. Instead, historians break down the empire's history into several phases, including its initial foundation by Babur and Humayun, followed by the zenith of expansion and consolidation under Akbar to Aurangzeb. The final stage is the period of decline and disintegration under the Later Mughals. This structured approach provides a more accurate view of the state's changing power.

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though he died shortly after restoring the Mughal authority.

274. (A) later adopted and built upon by the Mughal Empire under Akbar
The administrative and revenue reforms implemented by Sher Shah Suri proved to be remarkably efficient and durable. These systems, including land assessment and standardized currency, provided a stable foundation for governance in northern India. Following the restoration of Mughal rule, these models were not discarded but were instead adopted, refined, and further institutionalized during the long and influential reign of Akbar.

275. (C) a military flanking strategy
During his military campaigns in India, Babur employed a specialized tactical maneuver known as the tulughma. This strategy involved dividing the army into different units to encircle and attack the enemy from the flanks. By combining this sophisticated movement with the use of artillery, Babur was able to achieve decisive victories against numerically superior forces during his conquest of India.

276. (A) To create a graded hierarchy for the nobility with civil and military roles
The Mansabdari system was a fundamental institutional pillar established to organize the imperial administration and military. This graded hierarchical structure assigned specific ranks, or mansabs, to members of the nobility. Each rank carried both civil and military responsibilities, ensuring that the ruling class remained integrated into the state's core functions and provided a steady supply of troops.

277. (D) foster harmony among different religious groups
Akbar introduced the policy of Sulh-i-Kul, which translates to absolute peace, as a means of governing a socially and religiously diverse empire. The policy aimed to promote tolerance and harmony among different faith communities. By fostering a pluralistic environment and reducing religious tensions, the state sought to ensure long-term stability and secure the loyalty of its varied subjects.

278. (B) the empire reached its greatest territorial size while the factors for its decline were intensified
The reign of Aurangzeb is viewed as paradoxical because it represented both the peak and the beginning of the end for Mughal power. While he successfully expanded the empire to its maximum territorial extent, the costs of these campaigns were immense. The prolonged wars and controversial social policies simultaneously drained the treasury and alienated significant populations, fostering future imperial instability.

279. (C) Akbar's policy of religious pluralism versus Aurangzeb's more orthodox approach
A major distinction between these two prominent rulers lies in their respective approaches to the diverse religious landscape of India. Akbar is known for his inclusive policies and the promotion of communal harmony through the concept of universal peace. Conversely, Aurangzeb adopted a more orthodox stance, reimposing specific taxes and taking actions that were perceived as a shift from pluralism.

280. (D) The long and expensive Deccan wars
The later years of Aurangzeb's reign were dominated by relentless military efforts to annex the southern regions of India. These Deccan campaigns were exceptionally long and costly, placing an unprecedented strain on the imperial treasury. The focus on these wars diverted essential resources from other parts of the empire and contributed to the administrative exhaustion that eventually weakened central control.

281. (A) the continuous struggle between Vijayanagara and the Bahmanis for territory and resources
For over two centuries, the history of the Deccan was defined by the persistent rivalry between two major powers. The Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate engaged in intermittent warfare and strategic competition. This conflict was primarily driven by the desire to control fertile agricultural zones like the Raichur doab and strategic coastal ports, shaping the unique regional political trajectory.

282. (B) a rebellion against the Tughlaq dynasty of Delhi
The emergence of the Bahmani Sultanate was a direct consequence of political instability within the Delhi Sultanate. It was established by a

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299. (B) Internal divisions within the confederacy and the rise of British power
The eventual decline of the Maratha state resulted from a combination of internal and external factors. The decentralized confederate structure fostered intense jealousies and rivalries among the various noble families, undermining their collective strength. Simultaneously, the rising British power employed superior diplomacy and military organization to exploit these divisions, systematically reducing the influence of the Maratha chiefs until their defeat.

300. (A) the formation of the Maratha Confederacy
As the Maratha state expanded vigorously under the leadership of the early Peshwas, the management of distant territories became increasingly complex. This expansion necessitated the granting of authority to various military commanders who led these northern campaigns. These developments directly led to the evolution of a confederate system, where powerful regional chiefs established their own domains while maintaining connections.

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to annex the states individually, eventually leading to the total collapse of independence.

291. (C) the establishment of self-rule
Shivaji initiated a movement centered on the concept of Swaraj, which signifies the establishment of self-rule or sovereign independence. This ideological foundation was used to mobilize support against the prevailing dominance of external powers in the region. By creating a state governed by indigenous principles, Shivaji challenged the legitimacy of the Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates, empowering local populations.

292. (A) a council of ministers responsible for different administrative departments
To ensure the efficient governance of his expanding territories, Shivaji established an administrative council known as the Ashtapradhan. This body consisted of eight ministers, each assigned a specific portfolio such as finance, military affairs, or justice. This system was intentionally designed to distribute authority and prevent the concentration of power, thereby facilitating a more organized and systematic approach to state management.

293. (D) His effective use of guerrilla warfare tactics
Shivaji's military achievements were largely based on his mastery of unconventional warfare. Utilizing the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats and his network of hill-forts, he perfected guerrilla tactics. These methods allowed his mobile forces to strike unexpectedly and retreat quickly, effectively neutralizing the advantages of the much larger and more conventional armies maintained by the Mughal Empire and sultanates.

294. (B) It legitimized his rule and provided an ideological basis for the Maratha state
The formal coronation of Shivaji as Chhatrapati in 1674 held profound political and symbolic importance. It served to legitimize his authority as a sovereign king, independent of any external overlordship. This event provided a powerful ideological framework for the emerging Maratha state, transforming it from a localized rebellion into a recognized political entity with a clear claim to rule.

295. (C) ensure efficient governance and prevent the over-centralization of power
Shivaji's administrative structure was carefully crafted to balance efficiency with political stability. By dividing responsibilities among a council of ministers, he ensured that various aspects of the state, from revenue to justice, were managed systematically. This approach was intended to prevent any single individual from accumulating too much power, thereby creating a resilient state capable of resisting external pressures.

296. (D) the transfer of de facto power from the Chhatrapati to the Peshwas
After the death of Shivaji, the Maratha political structure underwent a significant evolution. The office of the Peshwa, originally serving as the prime minister in the administrative council, gradually gained supreme authority. Over time, the Peshwas became the hereditary and actual rulers of the state. Consequently, the role of the Chhatrapati was transformed into a primarily symbolic and ceremonial position.

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297. (A) a group of powerful Maratha chiefs with semi-independent domains
The Maratha state eventually transitioned into a confederate structure as it expanded its influence into northern India. This confederacy was composed of several prominent noble families who established their own semi-independent spheres of influence while nominally acknowledging the Peshwa's leadership. These powerful chiefs managed their own territories and military forces, leading to a decentralized system characterized by cooperation and competition.

298. (B) It checked the northward expansion of the Marathas and exposed their weaknesses
The Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 was a major setback that fundamentally halted the Marathas' push into northern India. The heavy losses sustained during this conflict revealed the vulnerabilities in their military coordination and strategic planning. While the Marathas remained a significant power, the defeat weakened their central authority and provided an opportunity for other regional forces to rise.

2. The assignments, known as jagirs, were frequently transferred to prevent local entrenchment.
3. There were different types of jagirs, such as 'tankha jagir' and 'watan jagir'.
4. The system ensured a steady income for the nobility without burdening the central treasury.
5. The system eventually led to a crisis due to a shortage of available jagirs compared to the number of claimants.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

23. Which statement correctly describes the polity of the Vijayanagara State?
(A) It was a highly decentralized state with minimal central authority.
(B) The administration was based on the 'Asta Pradhan' model.
(C) The state was a loose confederation of independent Bahamani nobles.
(D) It was a centralized and militaristic state, with the king having absolute power.

24. If a Maratha administrator had to make a decision regarding foreign affairs, which member of the Asta Pradhan would they be required to consult?
(A) Sumant (Foreign Minister)
(B) Peshwa (Prime Minister)
(C) Amatya (Finance Minister)
(D) Senapati (Commander-in-Chief)

25. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Vijayanagara state developed a unique administrative system known as the Nayankara system.
Reason (R) : This system involved granting land to military chiefs (Nayakas) in return for military service and a fixed financial contribution to the state, which helped in consolidating control over a vast territory.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

26. The administrative system of the Bahamani Kingdom was largely modeled on the system of which preceding state?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate.
(B) The Kakatiyas of Warangal.
(C) The Yadavas of Devagiri.
(D) The Vijayanagara Empire.

27. Which of the following pairs of Administrative Systems and their corresponding states is correctly matched?
(A) Nayankara System - Bahamani Kingdom
(B) Asta Pradhan - Vijayanagara Empire
(C) Mansabdari System - Maratha State
(D) Iqta System - Delhi Sultanate

28. The 'Peshwa' in the Maratha administration's Asta Pradhan held which portfolio?
(A) Commander-in-Chief
(B) Prime Minister
(C) Chief Justice
(D) Finance Minister

29. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Asta Pradhan was a council of eight ministers that administered the Maratha empire.
Statement II : The positions in the Asta Pradhan were hereditary from the very beginning of its inception under Shivaji.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

30. The administration of the Maratha state under Shivaji is best described as being based on:
(A) A decentralized feudal model.
(B) A system borrowed entirely from the Mughals.
(C) A theocratic structure governed by religious laws.
(D) A centralized autocracy with an advisory council of ministers.

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CHAPTER 05

Medieval India: Administration and Economy

1. Which of the following best describes the role of the 'Sultan' in the Delhi Sultanate's administration?
(A) A ceremonial head with power vested in the nobility.
(B) The supreme executive, legislative, and judicial authority.
(C) Primarily a military commander with no civil authority.
(D) A religious leader with no political power.

2. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Delhi Sultanate is often described as a theocratic state where the head of the state was also the religious head.
Statement II : The political and legal system was theoretically based on Islamic law (Shariat).
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

3. In the context of the Delhi Sultanate, what does the term 'Theocentric State' signify?
(A) A state where the Sultan is considered a divine being on earth.
(B) A state governed by a high-ranking council of religious scholars.
(C) A state in which God is considered the ultimate sovereign and the ruler is His deputy.
(D) A state where all laws are derived from several distinct religious traditions.

4. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Central administration of the Delhi Sultanate was highly organized and departmentalized.
Reason (R) : The Sultan was assisted by a number of powerful ministers and officials who headed specific departments like Diwan-i-Wizarat and Diwan-i-Arz.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

5. Which of the following statements about provincial administration under the Delhi Sultanate is correct?
(A) Provinces, known as Iqtas, were governed by Muqtis who maintained absolute autonomy.
(B) The Sultan exercised no control over the appointment or dismissal of governors.
(C) The provincial governor was responsible for maintaining law and order and collecting revenue in their jurisdiction.
(D) Provincial administration was a decentralized system with no form of central oversight.

6. A historian studying local administration under the Sultanate finds that villages were grouped into larger units for revenue and administrative purposes. What was the most common designation for such a unit, often referred to as a sub-division of a province?
(A) Pargana
(B) Shiq
(C) Khut
(D) Misl

7. Match List I with List II regarding administrative departments and their functions under the Delhi Sultanate.
List I: (Administrative Department)
P. Diwan-i-Arz

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Q. Diwan-i-Risalat
R. Diwan-i-Insha
S. Diwan-i-Wizarat

List II: (Function)
1. Department of Finance
2. Department of Military Affairs
3. Department of Religious Affairs and Appeals
4. Department of Royal Correspondence

(A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

8. Which of the following statements regarding the law of succession during the Delhi Sultanate is incorrect?
(A) The principle of primogeniture was strictly and consistently followed.
(B) There was no definite and universally accepted law of succession.
(C) The nobility played a significant role in the selection of the new Sultan.
(D) Military strength and the ability to consolidate power were crucial factors for a claimant.

9. What was the most appropriate description of Sher Shah's administrative system?
(A) A continuation of the chaotic system of the Lodis.
(B) A decentralized feudal structure with powerful regional chiefs.
(C) A highly centralized system that served as a model for the Mughals.
(D) A system based entirely on Afghan tribal traditions.

10. Consider the following administrative reforms of Sher Shah Suri:
1. Division of the empire into sarkars and parganas.
2. Introduction of a standardized currency, the silver rupiy(A)
3. Establishment of an efficient espionage system.
4. Measurement of land for revenue assessment.

Which of the above were key components of Sher Shah's administrative reforms?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

11. The central feature of Sher Shah's land revenue reforms was the introduction of a system based on what?
(A) A fixed annual tribute from local tribal chieftains.
(B) The general estimation of produce without measurement.
(C) A simple and uniform tax for all distinct land types.
(D) The measurement of land and a schedule of rates (ray).

12. Which of the following is a cause-and-effect relationship evident in Sher Shah's administration?
(A) Cause: Construction of a vast network of roads (sarais). Effect: Decline in trade and commerce.
(B) Cause: Introduction of a standardized currency. Effect: Facilitation of trade and commerce.
(C) Cause: Strict enforcement of law and order. Effect: Increase in peasant revolts.
(D) Cause: Abolition of the spy system. Effect: Greater administrative efficiency.

13. What is the definition of the 'Mansabdari system' as introduced by the Mughals?
(A) A system of hereditary land grants bestowed upon members of the high nobility.
(B) A judicial structure based on Islamic law administered by qazis in urban centers.
(C) A military-bureaucratic system where an official's rank (mansab) determined their status, salary, and military obligations.
(D) A revenue farming system where tax collection rights were auctioned to the highest bidder.

14. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Mansabdari system was a unique and fundamental feature of the Mughal administration.
Reason (R) : It effectively combined civil and military functions into a single graded service,

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ensuring loyalty and control over the nobility.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

15. Which of the following statements about the Jagirdari system under the Mughals is correct?
(A) A jagir was a piece of land assigned to a mansabdar in lieu of a cash salary.
(B) Jagirs were hereditary properties of the nobles.
(C) The holder of a jagir, the jagirdar, had absolute administrative and judicial rights over it.
(D) The Jagirdari system was completely separate from the Mansabdari system.

16. Arrange the following administrative developments in chronological order:
1. Introduction of the Mansabdari system by Akbar.
2. Land revenue reforms by Sher Shah Suri.
3. Establishment of the 'Asta Pradhan' by Shivaji.
4. Creation of the Diwan-i-Arz by Balban.
(A) 4, 2, 1, 3
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 1, 2, 3
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

17. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Under the Mughal administration, all mansabdars were jagirdars.
Statement II : All jagirdars were mansabdars, as the assignment of a jagir was tied to their rank and salary claim.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

18. Which statement about Mughal provincial administration is incorrect?
(A) The provincial Diwan was appointed by and accountable to the Subadar.
(B) The empire was divided into provinces or subas.
(C) The head of the provincial administration was the Subadar (governor).
(D) Officials like the Bakhshi and the Sadr were also appointed at the provincial level.

19. Match List I with List II regarding Mughal officials and their duties.
List I: (Mughal Official)
P. Subadar
Q. Diwan
R. Bakhshi
S. Faujdar
List II: (Duty)
1. Head of provincial revenue administration
2. Head of provincial military administration and paymaster
3. Head of a sarkar (district), maintained law and order
4. Head of a suba (province), overall administration
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

20. What was the role of the 'Kotwal' in Mughal local administration?
(A) Head of a pargana primarily tasked with administrative revenue collection.
(B) A military commander responsible for the defense of a strategic fort.
(C) A judicial officer presiding over legal cases in a rural district.
(D) Chief police officer of a town or city, responsible for maintaining law and order.

21. All of the following were features of the Mansabdari system EXCEPT:
(A) The dual ranks of Zat and Sawar.
(B) The obligation to maintain a specified number of troopers.
(C) The principle of hereditary succession to a mansab.
(D) The payment of salary either in cash (naqdi) or through a land assignment (jagir).

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Jagirdari system under the Mughals:
1. Jagirdars had only the right to collect revenue, not proprietary rights over the lan(D)

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(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

39. In the context of inter-state relations during the Sultanate and Mughal periods, what does the term 'buffer state' refer to?
(A) A state that paid regular tribute to the dominant empire.
(B) A powerful rival state that constantly challenged the empire.
(C) A state that was fully annexed into the empire.
(D) A neutral or semi-independent state located between two larger, rival powers.

40. An ambassador from the Safavid empire arrives at the Mughal court to negotiate the status of Qandahar. This scenario is a direct example of which aspect of Mughal administration?
(A) Conduct of inter-state relations and diplomacy.
(B) Management of local village economy.
(C) Implementation of the Jagirdari system.
(D) Administration of urban trade centers.

41. Consider the following aspects of inter-state relations during the Mughal period:
1. Matrimonial alliances with Rajput states.
2. Constant conflict with the Safavids over Qandahar.
3. Diplomatic missions exchanged with the Uzbeks of Central Asi(A)
4. A complex relationship with Deccan Sultanates, involving both diplomacy and warfar(E)
5. Maintenance of buffer states on the North-Eastern frontier.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

42. The relationship between the Delhi Sultanate and the independent regional kingdoms that emerged (like Bengal, Gujarat, Jaunpur) was primarily characterized by:
(A) A constant struggle for supremacy and attempts at reconquest by Delhi.
(B) Peaceful coexistence and free trade.
(C) The formation of a stable, long-term confederation.
(D) Complete isolation with no diplomatic or military contact.

43. Which of the following statements regarding the frontier policies of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals is incorrect?
(A) The Delhi Sultans built a series of forts and appointed wardens of the marches to guard the North-West frontier.
(B) The Mughals considered the Hindu Kush mountain range as their scientific frontier.
(C) The control of Qandahar was a major point of contention in Mughal-Persian relations.
(D) Both dynasties completely ignored the North-Eastern frontier, leading to its loss.

44. Arrange the following events related to inter-state relations in a correct chronological sequence:
1. Shivaji's coronation and the formal establishment of the Maratha kingdom.
2. Babur's victory at the Battle of Panipat, establishing Mughal rul(E)
3. Annexation of the Bahamani successor state of Ahmadnagar by Shah Jahan.
4. Alauddin Khilji's campaigns in the Deccan.

(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 1, 4, 2, 3

45. What was the most significant effect of the Delhi Sultanate's military campaigns in the Deccan?
(A) The permanent annexation of the entire southern peninsula.
(B) The peaceful integration of Deccan culture into North Indian society.
(C) The draining of wealth from the Deccan, which financed the Sultanate's administration and military.
(D) The complete destruction of all South Indian kingdoms.

46. Match List I with List II regarding rulers and their associated frontier or inter-state policies.
List I: (Ruler)
P. Balban
Q. Akbar
R. Aurangzeb
S. Sher Shah Suri
List II: (Policy)

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31. Consider the following characteristic features of the Vijayanagara administration:
1. A strong central government headed by the king.
2. Division of the empire into provinces called Rajyas or Mandalas.
3. The Nayankara system for military and land administration.
4. An autonomous village administration system known as Ayagar.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

32. Which of the following statements about the Bahamani administrative system is incorrect?
(A) The kingdom was divided into provinces known as 'tarafs'.
(B) The 'Asta Pradhan' was the central advisory council.
(C) The Sultan was the supreme head of the administration.
(D) The administration was heavily influenced by Persian and Delhi Sultanate models.

33. Which of the following officials was NOT a part of Shivaji's Asta Pradhan?
(A) Peshwa
(B) Subadar
(C) Amatya
(D) Sumant

34. Match List I with List II regarding Maratha officials and their portfolios.
List I: (Maratha Official)
P. Amatya
Q. Sachiv
R. Senapati
S. Nyayadhish
List II: (Portfolio)
1. Commander-in-Chief
2. Chief Justice
3. Accountant General/Finance Minister
4. Royal Correspondence
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

35. The frontier policy of the Delhi Sultans, especially in the North-West, was primarily focused on what?
(A) Expanding the empire into Central Asia.
(B) Establishing maritime trade routes.
(C) Defending against Mongol invasions.
(D) Promoting cultural exchange with Persia.

36. Which statement accurately describes the Mughal frontier policy in the North-West?
(A) The Mughals completely neglected the frontier, leading to frequent invasions.
(B) The Mughals aimed to conquer and permanently annex the entire Central Asian region.
(C) The frontier was managed by appointing local tribal chiefs without any central supervision.
(D) The policy focused on maintaining control over strategic locations like Kabul, Qandahar, and the Khyber Pass.

37. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Mughals invested significant military and financial resources in securing their North-West frontier.
Reason (R) : Qandahar and Kabul were considered the twin gates of Hindustan, crucial for the empire's security and for controlling the trade routes to Central Asia and Persia.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

38. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The frontier policy of the Delhi Sultanate was largely defensive, aimed at consolidating the Indian territories.
Statement II : The Mughal frontier policy was more ambitious and often offensive, involving campaigns to secure and retain control over strategic outposts beyond the Khyber pass.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

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rebel governor who successfully challenged the authority of the Tughlaq rulers in the southern provinces. This successful secession created an independent state in the northern Deccan, which eventually developed its own distinct administrative systems and unique cultural identity.

283. (B) patronage of arts and literature and his military leadership
Krishnadevaraya is celebrated as one of the most illustrious rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire. His reign was marked by significant military successes that expanded the state's influence and secured its borders. Beyond his martial achievements, he was a renowned patron of culture, supporting architects and writers in multiple languages, which led to a flourishing of artistic and literary traditions.

284. (A) It was a composite culture with strong Persian influences
The Bahmani Sultanate developed a unique cultural identity characterized by its composite nature. This was significantly shaped by the arrival and influence of Persian immigrants, including scholars, artists, and noblemen. The resulting blend of foreign and indigenous traditions impacted the state's art, architecture, and administrative practices, creating a cultural environment that was distinct from the contemporary developments in northern India.

285. (C) a combination of geopolitical and economic factors
While the rivalry between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms often had religious overtones, it was fundamentally rooted in complex practical considerations. The struggle centered on the acquisition of productive agricultural lands and the control of lucrative trade routes through strategic ports. These geopolitical and economic motivations were the primary drivers of the frequent warfare and shifting alliances that defined relationships.

286. (D) the disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate's central authority
The political map of the Deccan underwent a major transformation following the decline of the central Bahmani government. Internal conflicts and the weakening of the ruling dynasty allowed powerful regional governors to assert their independence. This process of disintegration led to the formation of five distinct successor states, each ruled by its own dynasty, which inherited the legacy of their predecessor.

287. (C) Forming a coalition against the Vijayanagara Empire
Despite their history of constant internecine warfare, the Deccan Sultanates occasionally united to address shared threats. A prominent instance of such cooperation occurred in the mid-sixteenth century when they formed a collective alliance. This temporary coalition was aimed at curbing the power of the Vijayanagara Empire, culminating in a decisive battle that fundamentally altered the political balance in India.

288. (B) Ahmadnagar – Nizam Shahi
Each of the five independent states that emerged from the Bahmani kingdom was associated with a specific ruling dynasty. In the case of Ahmadnagar, the state was governed by the Nizam Shahi dynasty. These individual dynasties managed their own territories, maintained unique artistic styles, and engaged in complex diplomatic relationships with both their neighbors and the expanding northern powers.

289. (D) gradual annexation by the expanding Mughal Empire
The independent existence of the Deccan Sultanates was eventually ended by the southward expansion of the Mughal Empire. Beginning in the late sixteenth century, the Mughals systematically targeted these states through military campaigns and diplomatic pressure. Over the course of a century, each sultanate was annexed, with the final remnants falling under the direct control of the imperial government.

290. (A) Their internal disunity in the face of Mughal expansion
The primary vulnerability of the Deccan Sultanates lay in their persistent internal rivalries and lack of a unified defense strategy. While they occasionally collaborated against local enemies, they failed to maintain a consistent alliance against the superior resources of the Mughal Empire. This fragmentation allowed the Mughals

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1. Policy of annexing Deccan states (Bijapur, Golconda)
2. Fortification of the North-West frontier against Mongols
3. Matrimonial and diplomatic alliances with Rajputs
4. Revitalizing control over the strategic Rohtas fort

(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

47. In the context of medieval Indian agriculture, what was a 'persian wheel' or 'rahat' used for?
(A) Lifting water from wells for irrigation.
(B) Plowing the fields.
(C) Grinding grain.
(D) Transporting agricultural produce to the market.

48. Which of the following statements correctly describes the village economy during this period?
(A) Each village was economically independent and had no trade with other villages or towns.
(B) The village economy was largely self-sufficient but was also integrated into the larger cash economy through land revenue payments.
(C) The economy was entirely barter-based with no use of currency at the village level.
(D) All land in the village was collectively owned and cultivated by the community.

49. What were agricultural loans, such as 'taccavi' or 'sondhar', provided by the state during the Sultanate and Mughal periods?
(A) Permanent and hereditary grants of land assigned to elite peasant groups.
(B) Loans provided to peasants, especially during distress, for seeds, bullocks, or digging wells.
(C) A form of total tax exemption granted to farmers for a specific fiscal period.
(D) Periodic payments made to soldiers for providing supplementary agricultural services.

50. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The condition of the peasantry during much of the Sultanate and Mughal era was characterized by a high revenue demand and subsistence-level living.
Reason (R) : The state's share of the produce was often fixed at a high rate, and intermediaries like jagirdars and zamindars often extracted more than the official demand.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

51. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Grants like 'madad-i-ma'ash' were revenue-free land grants given for charitable or religious purposes.
Statement II : Agricultural loans like 'taccavi' were grants that did not have to be repaid to the state.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

52. The most appropriate description of the village community in the medieval period is that it was:
(A) A homogenous group of peasants with equal land holdings.
(B) A military outpost with all residents being soldiers.
(C) A temporary settlement that shifted every few years.
(D) A stratified society comprising land-owning peasants, tenants, and landless laborers.

53. Consider the key elements of agricultural production in medieval India:
1. The use of the plough and other traditional implements.
2. The cultivation of a wide variety of food and cash crops.
3. The existence of state-sponsored and private irrigation systems.
4. The crucial role of animal power, especially

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120. Which of the following was NOT a function of the provincial 'Diwan' in the Mughal administration?
(A) Serving as the commander-in-chief of the provincial army.
(B) Supervising revenue collection.
(C) Maintaining accounts of provincial expenditure.
(D) Administering civil justice related to revenue matters.

121. The term 'Theocracy' as applied to the Sultanate state implies that:
(A) The state was ruled by a council of priests.
(B) The Sultan was worshipped as a divine figure by all subjects.
(C) The laws of the state were expected to be in conformity with religious scripture.
(D) There was complete freedom of religion for all citizens.

122. Match List I with List II regarding Maratha ministers in the Asta Pradhan and their responsibilities.
List I: (Maratha Minister)
P. Sumant / Dabir
Q. Pandit Rao
R. Amatya / Mazumdar
S. Waqia-Navis
List II: (Responsibility)
1. Finance and Accounts
2. Intelligence and Household Affairs
3. Foreign Affairs
4. Religious Affairs and Charities
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

123. The 'Jagirdari Crisis' during the later Mughal period refers to what phenomenon?
(A) An excess of available jagirs compared to the number of mansabdars.
(B) A revolt by the jagirdars against the Emperor.
(C) The abolition of the Jagirdari system by Aurangzeb.
(D) A shortage of land to be assigned as jagirs for the growing number of mansabdars.

124. Consider the following statements:
1. The Delhi Sultans successfully repelled numerous Mongol invasions.
2. The Mughal frontier policy focused on controlling Kabul and Qandahar.
3. The Maratha administration under Shivaji had no defined frontier policy.
4. Sher Shah lost control of the North-West frontier to the Mughals.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 4 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

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125. The frequent peasant revolts during the reign of Aurangzeb can be best understood as:
(A) A direct result of his religious policies alone.
(B) Attempts by foreign powers to destabilize the empire.
(C) A consequence of the increasing pressure on the agrarian economy and high revenue demands.
(D) A power struggle between the emperor and the nobility.

126. A 'hundi' could be used for all the following purposes EXCEPT:
(A) Remitting funds from one place to another.
(B) Raising a short-term loan.
(C) Serving as a bill of exchange in a trade transaction.
(D) Proving an individual's military rank (mansab).

127. Which statement about the Bahamani administrative system is correct?
(A) It was heavily modeled on the administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate.
(B) It was a unique system with no influence from any other Indian power.
(C) The kingdom was ruled by a council of eight ministers known as the Asta Pradhan.
(D) The primary administrative unit was the 'Nayankara'.

128. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Urbanization received a significant impetus during the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal periods.
Reason (R) : The growth of administrative

62. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The term 'factory' used by European traders in India referred to a large-scale manufacturing unit with modern machinery.
Statement II : 'Factories' were essentially fortified warehouses and residential quarters for the European merchants and their agents.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

63. The term 'Karkhanas' in the Sultanate and Mughal administration referred to:
(A) Royal workshops that produced and stored articles for the court and state departments.
(B) Private workshops of individual artisans.
(C) Open-air markets in urban centers.
(D) Military training grounds for the cavalry.

64. All of the following were significant handicraft industries during this period EXCEPT:
(A) Carpet weaving
(B) Synthetic plastic manufacturing
(C) Ivory carving
(D) Metalware and arms production

65. Consider the following statements regarding the organization of industry and technology in medieval India:
1. Production was largely based on the domestic or caste-based system.
2. The technology used was traditional and largely dependent on manual skill.
3. Royal 'karkhanas' catered to the luxury demands of the elit(E)
4. The guild system among artisans was well-developed in many urban centers.
5. There was a notable absence of large-scale mechanized production.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

66. State policies towards trade and commerce during the Mughal period generally involved:
(A) Levying uniform and low customs duties (rahdari) and encouraging trade.
(B) Prohibiting all forms of external trade.
(C) Imposing extremely high taxes to discourage merchant activities.
(D) Leaving trade entirely unregulated and in a state of chaos.

67. Which of the following statements about internal trade during the Sultanate and Mughal era is incorrect?
(A) There was a voluminous trade in bulk commodities like grain, salt, and textiles between different regions.
(B) The Banjaras, or traveling merchants, played a crucial role in the overland transport of goods.
(C) The lack of a standardized currency completely hampered internal trade.
(D) A network of rivers and roads, though not always secure, facilitated this trade.

68. Arrange the arrival of the following European powers in India for trade in the correct chronological order:
1. English
2. Portuguese
3. Dutch
4. French

(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 3, 4
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

69. Which statement correctly describes India's external trade during the Mughal period?
(A) India primarily imported finished goods and exported raw materials.
(B) External trade was a state monopoly, and private merchants were not allowed to participate.
(C) India had a favorable balance of trade, exporting high-value goods like textiles and spices for bullion.
(D) Trade was limited only to the immediate neighboring countries.

70. What was the most significant long-term impact of European trade on the Indian economy during this period?
(A) It led to the immediate industrialization of India.

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(B) It gradually led to the subordination of the Indian economy to European colonial interests.
(C) It caused the total collapse of all Indian handicraft industries.
(D) It resulted in India conquering and colonizing parts of Europe.

71. Match List I with List II regarding ports and their significance.
List I: (Port)
P. Surat
Q. Masulipatnam
R. Calicut
S. Hooghly
List II: (Region and Significance)
1. Malabar Coast, a major center for the spice trad(E)
2. Coromandel Coast, a key port for textiles.
3. Bengal, a gateway for trade from the Gangetic plains.
4. Gujarat, the premier port for Mughal trade with West Asi(A)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

72. The city of Surat in Gujarat was a prominent trade centre during the Mughal period primarily because:
(A) It was the main port for Haj pilgrims and trade with the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.
(B) It was the imperial capital of the Mughals.
(C) It was the only source of diamonds in India.
(D) It was exclusively used by the Portuguese for their spice trade.

73. A merchant wants to transport a large consignment of cotton textiles from Bengal to Surat. The existence of a reliable river transport system along the Ganges and a coastal shipping network demonstrates the importance of which factor for commerce?
(A) The mint system.
(B) The law of succession.
(C) Transport and communication infrastructure.
(D) The Mansabdari system.

74. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Hundi system was a highly developed and widely used financial instrument in medieval India.
Reason (R) : It functioned as a bill of exchange, facilitating the transfer of money without the physical movement of currency, thereby making long-distance trade safer and more convenient.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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75. What was the most accurate definition of a 'Hundi' in the context of medieval Indian commerce?
(A) A tax levied on goods at a port.
(B) A license required by merchants to trade.
(C) A type of insurance policy for goods in transit.
(D) A credit instrument or bill of exchange issued by a sarraf (banker).

76. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Indigenous forms of insurance existed in medieval India, covering risks to goods in transit over land and sea.
Statement II : The premium for this insurance was often included in the cost of the Hundi or charged separately.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

77. Consider the following sources of state income for the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals:
1. Land Revenue
2. Customs duties (Taxes on trade)
3. Jizya (Poll tax on non-Muslims)
4. War booty (Khams)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

78. The largest portion of state expenditure during the Sultanate and Mughal periods was on:
(A) Public welfare and building hospitals.
(B) The promotion of art and architecture.
(C) Agricultural development projects.
(D) The maintenance of the army and the nobility.

79. Which statement about the currency system of the Mughal Empire is correct?
(A) The trimetallic currency system, based on silver (rupee), gold (mohur), and copper (dam), was a key feature.
(B) The Mughals did not have a standardized currency, leading to economic chaos.
(C) Barter was the only means of transaction, and coins were not used.
(D) Only gold coins were minted and used throughout the empire.

80. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the mint system under the Mughals?
(A) Mints were established in various important towns and provincial capitals.
(B) The coins were known for their purity of metal and high artistic quality.
(C) The right to mint coins was restricted to the emperor, ensuring uniformity.
(D) All coins were of the same shape, size, and weight, regardless of the metal.

81. Famines during the medieval period were often caused by a combination of factors. Which of the following was NOT a primary cause?
(A) Failure of monsoons and subsequent drought.
(B) Excessive industrial pollution.
(C) Disruption of cultivation due to wars and military campaigns.
(D) Hoarding of grain by merchants and administrative failures in relief.

82. The primary cause for peasant revolts during the medieval period was often linked to:
(A) The oppressive burden of high land revenue demands.
(B) Disputes over religious doctrines.
(C) A desire for political independence from the empire.
(D) The introduction of new crop patterns.

83. Match List I with List II regarding currency and rulers associated with its standardization or introduction.
List I: (Currency)
P. Silver Tanka and Copper Jital
Q. Silver Rupiya
R. Gold Mohur
S. Copper Dam
List II: (Ruler/Dynasty)
1. Sher Shah Suri
2. Akbar (as part of the trimetallic system)
3. Iltutmish
4. Akbar (standardized as 40 to a rupee)
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

84. The Satnami and Jat revolts during the reign of Aurangzeb are prominent examples of:
(A) Successful secessionist movements.
(B) Conflicts between rival groups of nobles.
(C) Invasions by foreign powers.
(D) Peasant uprisings with complex socio-religious and economic causes.

85. Which of the following represents a cause-and-effect relationship concerning famines?
(A) Cause: A major peasant revolt. Effect: A sharp increase in agricultural surplus.
(B) Cause: The establishment of state-run mints. Effect: A decline in the availability of food grains.
(C) Cause: A severe drought in the Deccan. Effect: A famine exacerbated by ongoing warfare and disruption of supply lines.
(D) Cause: An increase in external trade. Effect: More frequent and severe famines.

86. Consider the following components of the state financial system during the Mughal era:
1. A structured system for land revenue assessment and collection.
2. A network of mints for issuing standardized currency.
3. The use of Hundis for credit and remittanc(E)
4. An organized treasury to manage income and expenditur(E)
5. The practice of granting jagirs in lieu of cash salaries.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

87. A mansabdar is granted a jagir with an estimated revenue ('jama') of 50 lakh dams. However, the actual collection ('hasil') for the year is only 30 lakh dams. This scenario illustrates which major problem within the Jagirdari system?
(A) The recurring conflict between the individual Zat and Sawar ranks.
(B) The state policy of refusing to pay any official salaries in cash.
(C) The hereditary nature of jagir assignments within the noble class.
(D) The discrepancy between the paper value and the real income of a jagir.

88. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The transfer of jagirdars from one jagir to another was a common administrative practice in the Mughal Empire.
Statement II : This policy was designed to prevent nobles from developing deep-rooted local connections and challenging central authority.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

89. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Sher Shah Suri's administrative reforms laid a strong foundation for the future Mughal administration.
Reason (R) : His system of land revenue, currency standardization, and network of roads were so effective that they were adopted and built upon by emperors like Akbar.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

90. In the administrative parlance of the Mughals, what was a 'Jagir'?
(A) A specific territory whose revenue was assigned to a noble in lieu of salary.
(B) A hereditary kingdom ruled by a subordinate king.
(C) A religious grant of land to a Muslim scholar.
(D) A tax collected from non-Muslim subjects.

91. Which of the following statements correctly identifies a key aspect of the law of succession under the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) A council of 'Ulema' had the final and binding say in selecting the next ruler.
(B) The daughter of a Sultan could never be a claimant to the throne.
(C) The throne always passed from the Sultan to his eldest son without exception.
(D) The principle of 'might is right', or control through military power, was a recurrent feature.

92. Consider the following combinations of officials in the Mughal provincial administration:
1. Diwan
2. Bakhshi
3. Sadr
4. Kotwal

Which of the above were part of the core administration under the Subadar?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

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93. The 'Nayankara' system was a distinctive administrative feature of which state?
(A) The Bahamani Sultanate
(B) The Maratha Kingdom
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Mughal Empire

94. Which statement about Maratha administration is incorrect?
(A) Shivaji established a strong central administration with the Asta Pradhan.
(B) The Marathas collected two types of taxes from surrounding territories: Chauth and Sardeshmukhi.
(C) Revenue administration was reformed, with land surveyed and assessed.

(D) The Maratha state adopted the Mansabdari and Jagirdari system in its entirety from the Mughals.

95. Match List I with List II regarding administrative systems and their primary associated dynasty or state.
List I: (Administrative System)
P. Iqta System
Q. Mansabdari System
R. Asta Pradhan
S. Nayankara System
List II: (Dynasty/State)
1. Marathas
2. Vijayanagara
3. Delhi Sultanate
4. Mughals
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

96. A key reason for the initial success and effectiveness of the 'Asta Pradhan' under Shivaji was that:
(A) The ministers held hereditary posts and were independently powerful.
(B) The ministers acted as an advisory body, with the final decision-making power resting with the king.
(C) It was a council of military generals with no civil administrative function.
(D) It was directly supervised by Mughal officials sent from Delhi.

97. All of the following were features of the Bahamani administration EXCEPT:
(A) The division of the kingdom into four, and later eight, 'tarafs' or provinces.
(B) The establishment of the 'Nayankara' system for local control.
(C) The significant political influence of 'Afaqis' (foreigners) and 'Deccanis' (locals) at court.
(D) A well-organized central administration with departments headed by ministers like the 'Vakil-us-Sultanat'.

98. Arrange the following administrative systems in the order of their establishment/prominence.
1. Mansabdari System
2. Iqta System
3. Asta Pradhan
4. Sher Shah's Provincial System
(A) 1, 2, 4, 3
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

99. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals established a series of fortified posts (thanas) along their frontiers.
Statement II : These posts served as garrisons for troops, helped in surveillance, and acted as bases for launching military actions.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

100. The best description of the Mughal policy towards the North-West Frontier is that it was:
(A) A policy of complete withdrawal and abandonment.
(B) A policy focused entirely on promoting trade without any military presence.
(C) A policy of paying a fixed annual tribute to the frontier tribes for peace.
(D) A forward policy aimed at controlling strategic routes and subduing turbulent tribes.

101. Which term was used for a provincial governor during the Delhi Sultanate, responsible for revenue collection and maintaining order in his 'Iqta'?
(A) Kotwal
(B) Amil
(C) Muqti or Wali
(D) Chaudhuri

102. Which of the following is an example of a cause-and-effect relationship in Mughal administration?
(A) Cause: The crisis in the Jagirdari system. Effect: Increased stability and prosperity of the empire.
(B) Cause: Frequent transfer of jagirdars. Effect: Short-term exploitation of peasantry in the jagir by the assignee.
(C) Cause: The abolition of the Mansabdari

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oxen.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

54. A major factor contributing to urbanization during the Sultanate and Mughal periods was:
(A) The decline in agricultural production.
(B) The establishment of administrative headquarters and military cantonments.
(C) The state policy of forced relocation of rural populations.
(D) The absence of any significant trade or commerce.

55. Which of the following statements about the demographic structure of medieval India is most likely incorrect?
(A) The vast majority of the population lived in rural areas.
(B) The urban population was diverse, including nobles, soldiers, artisans, and merchants.
(C) Population growth was slow and often checked by famines, epidemics, and wars.
(D) The overall population density was significantly higher than it is today.

56. During the medieval period, a 'qasba' was a term used to denote:
(A) A small town or a large village with a market.
(B) A large, fortified imperial capital.
(C) A rural village inhabited only by peasants.
(D) A temporary military encampment.

57. A Mughal emperor decides to shift his capital from Agra to a new city, Fatehpur Sikri. This action would directly lead to which demographic and economic process?
(A) A decline in overall agricultural production.
(B) The complete collapse of the old capital, Agra.
(C) The rapid urbanization of the new site and a shift in trade routes.
(D) A decrease in the empire's total population.

58. Match List I with List II regarding industrial products and their regions of production.
List I: (Industrial Product)
P. Cotton Textiles
Q. Shawls
R. Diamond Mining
S. Ship Building
List II: (Region)
1. Kashmir
2. Golconda
3. Gujarat and Bengal
4. Malabar Coast and Bengal
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

59. Which region was particularly famous for its fine quality cotton textiles, including muslin, during the Mughal period?
(A) Punjab
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Deccan
(D) Bengal

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60. Which statement is true regarding handicrafts in medieval India?
(A) Handicraft production was solely for local consumption and not for export.
(B) A wide variety of handicrafts, including metalwork, jewelry, and stone carving, flourished.
(C) The quality of handicrafts declined due to a lack of patronage.
(D) Handicrafts were produced only in state-owned factories.

61. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Agro-based industries, such as the production of sugar, oil, and indigo, were an important part of the medieval Indian economy.
Reason (R) : The demand for these products existed both for local consumption and for long-distance trade, incentivizing their production.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

(D) Nayankara System - Bahamani Administration

111. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Bahamani kingdom was frequently engaged in conflict with the Vijayanagara Empire.
Reason (R) : The fertile Raichur doab, located between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, was a major bone of contention between the two states.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

112. The term 'Saranjam' in the Maratha administration referred to:
(A) A tax on urban merchants.
(B) A land grant for the maintenance of troops, similar to a jagir.
(C) The chief minister of the state.
(D) A religious endowment for a temple.

113. Which of the following was NOT a major port on the western coast of India during the medieval period?
(A) Surat
(B) Hooghly
(C) Calicut
(D) Goa

114. Consider the following statements regarding the Mughal Mansabdari system:
1. It was a grading system used to fix rank and salary.
2. The ranks were divided into 'Zat' and 'Sawar'.
3. The ranks were always hereditary.
4. It was the bedrock of the Mughal military and civil administration.
5. All mansabdars were paid only in cash.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
(B) 1, 2, and 4 only
(C) 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only

115. An artisan in a Mughal 'karkhana' is tasked with weaving a silk carpet for the emperor's palace. This situation is an example of:
(A) Production for an open market.
(B) The agricultural loan system.
(C) The state as a major consumer of luxury goods.
(D) The functioning of the Hundi system.

116. The state's income during the medieval period was heavily dependent on:
(A) Fines and penalties from judicial cases.
(B) Voluntary donations from the nobility.
(C) Profits from state-owned industries.
(D) The surplus produced by the agricultural sector.

117. Arrange the following events chronologically:
1. Establishment of the Bahamani Kingdom.
2. Sher Shah's administrative reforms.
3. Introduction of the Iqta system by Iltutmish.
4. Annexation of Golconda by Aurangze(B)

(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

118. Which of the following statements about European trade with India during the Mughal era is correct?
(A) Europeans primarily sold their own manufactured goods in India.
(B) Europeans had to bring large amounts of gold and silver to buy Indian goods like textiles and spices.
(C) The trade was balanced, with equal value of goods exchanged.
(D) The Mughal state prohibited all trade with European powers.

119. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mughal currency system was highly sophisticated and standardized.
Statement II : Sher Shah Suri's introduction of the silver 'rupiya' and copper 'paisa' formed the basis for the Mughal currency system.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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system. Effect: Strengthening of the Mughal army.
(D) Cause: The strengthening of local administration. Effect: Weakening of the central authority.

103. In the Maratha administrative system, 'Chauth' and 'Sardeshmukhi' were:
(A) Two high-ranking ministers in the Asta Pradhan.
(B) Types of land grants given to military commanders.
(C) Titles given to the Maratha king.
(D) Taxes levied on territories not under direct Maratha rule.

104. Which of the following statements about Sher Shah's administrative reforms is incorrect?
(A) He established a highly decentralized administration, giving full autonomy to his governors.
(B) He introduced a system of branding horses (dagh) and maintaining descriptive rolls of soldiers (chehra).
(C) He built an extensive network of roads, including the Grand Trunk Road, and planted trees along them.
(D) He reorganized the land revenue system based on the measurement of cultivable land.

105. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mughals' relationship with the Rajput states, especially after Akbar, was primarily based on military conquest and subjugation without any diplomacy.
Statement II : The relationship involved a complex mix of warfare, matrimonial alliances, and incorporation of Rajput chiefs into the Mughal nobility as mansabdars.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

106. Match List I with List II regarding Mughal administrative terms and their meanings.
List I: (Administrative Term)
P. Zat (in Mansabdari)
Q. Sawar (in Mansabdari)
R. Jama (in Jagirdari)
S. Hasil (in Jagirdari)
List II: (Meaning)
1. The estimated revenue of a jagir
2. The actual revenue collected from a jagir
3. The personal rank and salary of a mansabdar
4. The number of horsemen a mansabdar had to maintain
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

107. The 'Ayagar system' was a key feature of village administration in which kingdom?
(A) The Mughal Empire
(B) The Bahamani Kingdom
(C) The Maratha Kingdom
(D) The Vijayanagara Empire

108. Which of the following statements is a correct description of the 'theocratic' nature of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The Sultan was considered an incarnation of God.
(B) The state was theoretically an Islamic state, and the Sultan's duty was to uphold the Sharia.
(C) All laws were made by a council of priests from different religions.
(D) The state completely ignored religious matters and was purely secular.

109. Consider the following officials of the Delhi Sultanate:
1. Wazir
2. Ariz-i-Mumalik
3. Qazi-ul-Quzat
4. Barid-i-Mumalik
Which of the above were heads of central government departments?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

110. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Asta Pradhan - Maratha Administration
(B) Mansabdari System - Mughal Administration
(C) Iqta System - Sultanate Administration

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centers, the concentration of nobility and their retainers, and the expansion of trade and craft production led to the emergence and growth of towns and cities.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

129. What was the primary role of the 'Faujdar' in a 'Sarkar' under Mughal administration?
(A) Collection of revenue.
(B) Maintenance of law and order and command of troops.
(C) Administration of justice.
(D) Supervision of mints.

130. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Under the Vijayanagara polity, the king was the ultimate authority in all civil, military, and judicial matters.
Statement II : The kingship was hereditary, but there were instances of usurpation.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

131. Consider the following statements about the economic conditions of the medieval period:
1. Cotton textiles were a major export item.
2. The 'Hundi' system facilitated long-distance trad(E)
3. State income was primarily derived from taxes on urban industries.
4. Agricultural loans like 'taccavi' were provided to peasants.
5. Famines were rare and had minimal impact on the population.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 4 only
(B) 1, 3, and 5 only
(C) 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) All of the above

132. The 'Asta Pradhan' of Shivaji is an example of what type of administrative body?
(A) A hereditary feudal council.
(B) An elected legislative assembly.
(C) A supreme judicial tribunal.
(D) An appointed council of ministers with advisory functions.

133. The main difference between a 'watan jagir' and a 'tankha jagir' in the Mughal system was:
(A) Watan jagirs were located in the Deccan, whereas tankha jagirs were in the north.
(B) Watan jagirs were for religious service, while tankha jagirs were for military duty.
(C) Watan jagirs were hereditary landholdings of zamindars, while tankha jagirs were transferable assignments in lieu of salary.
(D) Watan jagirs consistently yielded higher revenue amounts than standard tankha jagirs.

134. Which of the following is an incorrect pair?
(A) Subadar - Provincial Governor (Mughal)
(B) Nayaka - Village Headman (Mughal)
(C) Amatya - Finance Minister (Maratha)
(D) Muqti - Iqta Holder (Sultanate)

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135. Why was control over the North-West frontier crucial for both the Sultanate and the Mughals?
(A) It was the only region where cotton could be grown.
(B) It was the location of all the empire's gold mines.
(C) It was the religious heartland of the ruling dynasties.
(D) It was the primary invasion route into India and a key artery for overland trade.

136. A peasant in a Mughal province is forced to sell his produce at a low price to a revenue official, who is also a grain merchant. This situation best illustrates:
(A) The potential for exploitation of the peasantry by local officials.
(B) The smooth functioning of the village economy.
(C) The state's policy of providing agricultural loans.
(D) The benefits of European trade for the common farmer.

137. Which of the following statements about industries in medieval India is incorrect?
(A) Royal workshops, or 'karkhanas', produced

(C) To command the Sultan's personal bodyguards.
(D) To manage the royal Karkhanas.

210. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mughal state actively encouraged and taxed trade and commerce.
Statement II : The state's income from customs duties and other trade-related taxes formed the largest part of its revenue, exceeding land revenue.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

211. Which of the following correctly lists administrative divisions of the Mughal empire in descending order of size?
(A) Sarkar, Suba, Pargana
(B) Pargana, Sarkar, Suba
(C) Suba, Sarkar, Pargana
(D) Suba, Pargana, Sarkar

212. All of the following are correctly matched EXCEPT:
(A) Asta Pradhan - Maratha administration
(B) Nayankara System - Vijayanagara administration
(C) Iqta - Sultanate revenue assignment
(D) Mansabdar - Bahamani military chief

213. The economic policies of the state, such as the levying of customs duties and the maintenance of roads and sarais, directly impacted which sector?
(A) The law of succession
(B) Religious practices
(C) Trade and Commerce
(D) The caste system

214. Which of the following statements is true regarding technology in medieval Indian industries?
(A) The period saw rapid technological innovation and mechanization.
(B) Technology was traditional and skill-intensive, with little change over centuries.
(C) Indian technology was far superior to European technology in all aspects.
(D) The state actively suppressed any form of technological development.

215. The 'Zat' rank in the Mansabdari system determined:
(A) The number of horses and elephants a noble had to maintain.
(B) The specific province the noble would govern.
(C) The noble's religious duties at court.
(D) The noble's personal status and salary in the administrative hierarchy.

216. Consider the following features of Maratha administration under Shivaji:
1. A council of eight ministers called the Asta Pradhan.
2. The abolition of the Jagirdari (Saranjam) system in principl(E)
3. A well-organized land revenue system.
4. The levying of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi on neighbouring territories.
5. A strong navy.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

217. The primary reason for the extensive use of Hundis in medieval commerce was:
(A) The lack of metallic currency.
(B) The state's prohibition on carrying cash.
(C) The safety and convenience it offered for transferring large sums of money.
(D) A religious injunction against handling money directly.

218. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Mughals, particularly from Akbar onwards, pursued a policy of integrating Rajput chiefs into the imperial structure.
Reason (R) : This policy, involving military alliances, high mansabs, and matrimonial ties, was crucial for the expansion and consolidation of the Mughal Empire.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct

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146. Which of the following factors contributed most to famines in medieval India?
(A) Climatic factors like drought, combined with warfare and administrative disruption.
(B) Overproduction of cash crops.
(C) A decline in international trade.
(D) The state's refusal to collect land revenue.

147. Which of the following identifies the organization of cotton textile production?
(A) It was concentrated in a few large government-owned factories.
(B) It was entirely controlled by European trading companies.
(C) It was a decentralized industry, with spinning done by women at home and weaving by artisans in their cottages.
(D) It was a seasonal activity undertaken only by peasants during the off-season.

148. The term 'Sarkar' in the administration of Sher Shah and the Mughals referred to:
(A) The central government.
(B) A village.
(C) A military grant.
(D) A sub-division of a province (Suba).

149. The 'theocentric' nature of the Sultanate state is reflected in the fact that:
(A) The Sultan claimed to be God himself.
(B) All administrative decisions were made by religious scholars.
(C) The Sultan styled himself as a deputy or shadow of God on earth.
(D) The state had no army and relied on divine protection.

150. Arrange the following in the correct descending order of administrative hierarchy under the Mughals:
1. Pargana
2. Sarkar
3. Suba
4. Village (Mauza)

(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 3, 2, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

151. What was the role of the 'Wazir' in the central administration of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The head of the military department.
(B) The chief justice of the empire.
(C) The head of the department of royal correspondence.
(D) The head of the finance department, effectively the prime minister.

152. Which statement accurately differentiates the Jagirdari system from a feudal system?
(A) Jagirdars were frequently transferred, and had no proprietary rights, only the right to collect revenue.
(B) Jagirdars held hereditary rights over their jagirs, which was not the case for most feudal lords.
(C) The Jagirdari system was entirely civilian and did not involve any form of military obligation.
(D) Feudal lords were typically paid a cash salary, while jagirdars relied on land revenue assignments.

153. A European trader in the 17th century wishes to establish a trading post in India. He would need to seek permission from and negotiate terms with which authority?
(A) The local village panchayat.
(B) The caste leader of the merchant guild.
(C) The Mughal emperor or his provincial governor.
(D) The Pope.

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154. Which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems?
(A) Both B and C are correct.
(B) They were two completely independent and unrelated systems.
(C) The Jagirdari system was the method by which most mansabdars were paid their salary.
(D) All jagirdars were mansabdars, but all mansabdars were not jagirdars (some were paid in cash).

155. Which of the following statements about the 'Asta Pradhan' is incorrect?
(A) It was a council of eight ministers created by Shivaji.
(B) The Peshwa was the head of the council.
(C) Each minister was directly responsible to

army.
(B) He was the chief of city police.
(C) He was responsible for maintaining a register of houses and citizens.
(D) He was responsible for maintaining law and order in urban areas.

192. Which of the following identifies the main function of the 'Pandit Rao' in the Asta Pradhan?
(A) To lead the army.
(B) To manage religious grants and charities.
(C) To manage foreign affairs.
(D) To act as the chief justice.

193. Consider the following features of the economic system during the Sultanate and Mughal periods:
1. An agrarian economy with land revenue as the main source of state incom(E)
2. A flourishing handicraft industry, especially in textiles.
3. An extensive network of internal and external trad(E)
4. The use of sophisticated financial instruments like Hundis.
5. The existence of a trimetallic currency system.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

194. A key weakness in the administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate was the:
(A) Absence of a well-defined and peaceful law of succession.
(B) Lack of a standing army.
(C) Complete absence of any provincial administration.
(D) Prohibition of trade and commerce.

195. What was the main purpose of branding horses ('dagh') and maintaining a descriptive roll of soldiers ('chehra')?
(A) To determine the social status of the soldier.
(B) To create a record for religious purposes.
(C) To prevent fraud and ensure that the troopers and horses presented for muster were of the required quality.
(D) To facilitate the sale of horses in the open market.

196. The term 'theocracy' is sometimes used to describe the Sultanate, but 'theocentric' is considered more accurate by some historians because:
(A) The Sultan was directly appointed by the Caliph.
(B) The Ulema (theologians) held all the key administrative posts.
(C) The state followed the religious laws of the majority non-Muslim population.
(D) While God was the symbolic head, the Sultan wielded practical political power.

197. Which of the following is correctly paired?
(A) Diwan-i-Wizarat - Department of Military
(B) Diwan-i-Arz - Department of Finance
(C) Diwan-i-Insha - Department of Correspondence
(D) Diwan-i-Risalat - Department of Intelligence

198. The conflict between the Mughals and the Safavids of Persia often centered on the control of which strategic city?
(A) Kabul
(B) Qandahar
(C) Herat
(D) Ghazni

199. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mansabdari system organized the entire nobility and bureaucracy into a single graded service.
Statement II : A mansabdar's rank determined his personal salary (Zat) and the number of troops he was required to maintain (Sawar).
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

200. The primary cause of agrarian distress and peasant revolts in the late 17th century was:
(A) The combination of high revenue demands, administrative exploitation, and the jagirdari crisis.
(B) The introduction of European crops.
(C) The state's inability to protect peasants from foreign invasions.

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(A) Revenue collection.
(B) Judicial administration.
(C) Acting as the paymaster and inspector-general of the provincial army.
(D) Religious endowments.

164. Consider the following statements about the law of succession in the Mughal Empire:
1. The principle of primogeniture (eldest son inherits) was firmly establishe(D)
2. A bloody war of succession among the princes was a recurring featur(E)
3. The nobility often played a king-maker role during succession struggles.
4. The concept of 'coparcenary' or division of the empire among sons was also practiced, especially in early Mughal times.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3 only

165. The term 'Diwan-i-Wizarat' in the Sultanate's central administration referred to the department of:
(A) Military
(B) Foreign Affairs
(C) Finance
(D) Justice

166. Which pair represents the dual ranks that determined a Mughal mansabdar's position?
(A) Iqta and Jagir
(B) Zat and Sawar
(C) Chauth and Sardeshmukhi
(D) Amil and Faujdar

167. The Maratha administration under the Peshwas, after the time of Shivaji, increasingly saw which trend?
(A) The decentralization of power to local chiefs.
(B) The complete adoption of the Mughal administrative model.
(C) The abolition of the 'Asta Pradhan' council.
(D) The growing power and hereditary nature of the Peshwa's office.

168. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.

Statement I : The Vijayanagara and Bahamani kingdoms were in a state of perpetual peace and alliance.
Statement II : They were engaged in continuous warfare, primarily for the control of the fertile Tungabhadra-Krishna doab.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

169. Sher Shah's most enduring reform, which was later perfected by the Mughals, was in the field of:
(A) Religious policy.
(B) Maritime exploration.
(C) Land revenue administration.
(D) Medical science.

170. Which of the following ports was the most important outlet for the products of the Gangetic valley in the Mughal period?
(A) Hooghly
(B) Broach
(C) Surat
(D) Calicut

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171. Which of the following statements about the village economy is incorrect?
(A) The village was the basic unit of economic life.
(B) A significant part of the agricultural produce was taken away as land revenue.
(C) The village had its own artisans and service providers, making it largely self-sufficient.
(D) The use of currency was completely unknown at the village level.

172. The term 'Factory' in the context of 17th-century European trade in India meant:
(A) A site of large-scale manufacturing.
(B) A fortified trading station, office, and warehouse.
(C) The official residence of a European ambassador.
(D) A school for teaching European languages.

173. Arrange the following administrative posts in a logical hierarchical or functional grouping as found in Mughal administration:
1. Subadar

the king.
(D) The posts in the council were strictly hereditary and permanent.

156. Consider the following statements about the Bahamani Kingdom's administration:
1. The kingdom was divided into provinces called 'tarafs'.
2. The administration was heavily influenced by the Delhi Sultanat(E)
3. The court was often divided by rivalry between Deccani and Afaqi nobles.
4. The capital was moved from Gulbarga to Bidar.
5. Its administrative structure was known as the 'Asta Pradhan'.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(B) 1, 2, and 5 only
(C) 3, 4, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

157. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The frontier policy of the Mughals under Akbar involved both military action and diplomacy, such as matrimonial alliances with borderland chiefs.
Statement II : The Mughal policy towards the North-East frontier was as systematic and successful as their policy in the North-West.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

158. The primary objective of providing 'taccavi' loans to peasants was to:
(A) Keep them permanently in debt to the state.
(B) Encourage them to join the army.
(C) Fund their religious pilgrimages.
(D) Promote the extension and improvement of cultivation.

159. Match List I with List II regarding officials and their corresponding administrative systems.
List I: (Official)
P. Faujdar
Q. Sumant
R. Muqti
S. Nayaka

List II: (System)
1. Delhi Sultanate
2. Vijayanagara
3. Mughal
4. Maratha

(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

160. What was a significant demographic consequence of the establishment of new administrative capitals like Delhi or Fatehpur Sikri?
(A) A decrease in the total population of the empire.
(B) The migration of artisans, merchants, soldiers, and officials to the new urban center.
(C) The complete depopulation of all other towns and cities.
(D) A shift from an urban to a predominantly rural population.

161. All of the following were major agro-based industries in medieval India EXCEPT:
(A) Sugar and jaggery production.
(B) Steel manufacturing.
(C) Indigo dyeing.
(D) Oil pressing.

162. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Indian merchant class, particularly in port cities like Surat, was prosperous and highly organized during the Mughal period.
Reason (R) : They controlled a vast network of inland and overseas trade and possessed sophisticated financial instruments like hundis and insurance.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

163. The primary responsibility of the provincial 'Bakhshi' under the Mughals was:

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182. Which of the following statements about local administration in the Mughal empire is correct?
(A) The Faujdar was in charge of a village.
(B) The village headman (Muqaddam or Chaudhuri) and the village accountant (Patwari) were key officials in rural administration.
(C) The Kotwal was responsible for the administration of a Pargana.
(D) The Mughals completely dismantled the traditional village-level administration.

183. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of the Deccan states:
1. The Vijayanagara Empire had a well-defined administrative structure, including the Nayankara and Ayagar systems.
2. The Bahamani administrative system was largely a copy of the Vijayanagara system.
3. The Maratha 'Asta Pradhan' was a council of eight ministers with specific portfolios.
4. The Bahamani kingdom was divided into provinces known as 'tarafs'.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

184. The 'Diwan-i-Arz' of the Delhi Sultanate was the department of:
(A) Military Affairs
(B) Finance
(C) Foreign Relations
(D) Royal Household

185. A cause-and-effect relationship that contributed to the 'Jagirdari crisis' was:
(A) Cause: A sharp increase in agricultural productivity. Effect: A decline in the number of mansabdars.
(B) Cause: The policy of permanent, non-transferable jagirs. Effect: Increased loyalty and efficiency of the nobility.
(C) An increase in the number of nobles (mansabdars) needing jagirs. Effect: A shortage of productive land (paibaqi) to assign as jagirs.
(D) Cause: The abolition of the cash salary (naqdi) system. Effect: A surplus of available jagirs.

186. The concept of 'Watan Jagir' in Mughal administration signifies:
(A) A jagir assigned in a mansabdar's home region, which was often hereditary and non-transferable.
(B) A jagir assigned to a noble serving in a foreign country.
(C) A jagir that could be bought and sold in the open market.
(D) A jagir given as a reward for a single act of bravery in war.

187. Which of the following was NOT a major component of India's export trade during the Mughal period?
(A) Cotton textiles
(B) Spices
(C) Indigo
(D) Heavy machinery

188. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Delhi Sultans maintained a large standing army and built strong forts on the North-West frontier.
Statement II : This policy was primarily aimed at facilitating the conquest of Europe.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

189. The most significant feature of Sher Shah's administrative reforms was their emphasis on:
(A) Decentralization and local autonomy.
(B) Maritime expansion and naval power.
(C) Centralization, standardization, and public welfare.
(D) The promotion of a single religious creed.

190. In the Vijayanagara administration, the 'Nayakas' were:
(A) Village headmen.
(B) A council of ministers advising the king.
(C) Revenue collectors in urban areas.
(D) Provincial governors or military chiefs who held land in return for service.

191. Which of the following statements about the 'Kotwal' in Mughal India is incorrect?
(A) He was the commander of the provincial

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goods for the elite.
(B) Cotton textile production was a major, widespread industry.
(C) Production was organized in large, mechanized factories.
(D) Handicrafts like metalwork and jewelry were highly developed.

138. The primary function of the 'Barid-i-Mumalik' in the Delhi Sultanate was:
(A) To head the state news and intelligence agency.
(B) To command the army in battle.
(C) To head the department of justice.
(D) To manage the royal household.

139. Match List I with List II regarding administrative terms and their descriptions.
List I: (Administrative Term)
P. Jagirdar
Q. Zamindar
R. Muqti
S. Nayaka
List II: (Description)
1. Holder of a transferable revenue assignment (Mughal)
2. A hereditary holder of local land rights with revenue collection duties
3. Holder of a revenue assignment (Iqta) in the Sultanate period
4. A military chief holding territory in the Vijayanagara empire
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(C) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

140. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The law of succession in the Delhi Sultanate was not based on a clear principle like primogeniture.
Reason (R) : This often led to wars of succession among the sons of the deceased Sultan and powerful nobles, causing political instability.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

141. The trimetallic currency system of the Mughals, consisting of Mohur, Rupee, and Dam, was based on which metals, respectively?
(A) Gold, Copper, Silver
(B) Silver, Gold, Copper
(C) Gold, Silver, Copper
(D) Copper, Silver, Gold

142. Consider the following statements about the Vijayanagara state:
1. The state was a highly centralized monarchy.
2. The Nayankara system was a central feature of its polity.
3. The Ayagar system managed village affairs.
4. The rulers were in constant conflict with the Bahamani Sultanat(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

143. Which of the following was NOT a major trade centre during the period?
(A) Fatehpur Sikri (after its abandonment as capital)
(B) Agra
(C) Surat
(D) Masulipatnam

144. The system of administration introduced by Shivaji, the 'Asta Pradhan', can be compared to a modern:
(A) Supreme Court
(B) Cabinet of Ministers
(C) Parliament
(D) Feudal council

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145. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mughal Mansabdari system was a purely military organization.
Statement II : Mansabdars were given both military and civil responsibilities, and it formed the steel frame of the empire's bureaucracy.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

(D) A series of natural disasters that destroyed all agricultural land.

201. Which of the following lists contains only ministers from Shivaji's Asta Pradhan?
(A) Peshwa, Subadar, Faujdar, Kotwal
(B) Wazir, Ariz, Muqti, Bakhshi
(C) Peshwa, Amatya, Sumant, Senapati
(D) Nayaka, Ayagar, Diwan, Wazir

202. Match List I with List II regarding administrative concepts and their core ideas.
List I: (Concept/System)
P. Mansabdari
Q. Jagirdari
R. Hundi
S. Theocracy
List II: (Core Idea)
1. State governed by religious law
2. Bill of exchange
3. Graded military-bureaucratic hierarchy
4. Revenue assignment in lieu of salary
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

203. The 'Banjaras' were a significant group in the medieval economy because they were:
(A) Specialized weavers of fine silk.
(B) Goldsmiths and moneylenders in urban centers.
(C) A warrior clan on the North-West frontier.
(D) A community of professional transporters and traders of bulk goods like grain and salt.

204. The administrative system of the Vijayanagara state was characterized by:
(A) A loose confederation of independent chieftains.
(B) A highly centralized monarchy supported by the Nayankara system.
(C) The Asta Pradhan council of ministers.
(D) A complete adoption of the Bahamani administrative structure.

205. The main reason for the frequent transfer of Jagirdars by the Mughal emperors was:
(A) To allow them to gain experience in different parts of the empire.
(B) To punish them for poor performance.
(C) To prevent them from developing local roots and becoming too powerful.
(D) To satisfy their personal travel requests.

206. Consider the following statements about Sher Shah's administration:
1. He introduced the silver Rupiya and copper Dam.
2. He revived the system of branding horses (dagh).
3. He built the Grand Trunk Roa(D)
4. He abolished the Jagirdari system and paid all salaries in cash.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All are correct

207. A historian examining the causes of a famine in the 17th-century Deccan finds records of a three-year drought, concurrent with Mughal military campaigns in the region. This evidence suggests the famine was caused by:
(A) A combination of natural and man-made factors.
(B) A single, isolated event.
(C) Exclusively man-made factors.
(D) Exclusively natural factors.

208. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Bahamani and Vijayanagara kingdoms were in a near-constant state of war.
Reason (R) : They shared a common religious and cultural heritage which led to peaceful integration.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

209. What was the most important function of the 'Muqti' or 'Wali' in the provincial administration of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) To preside over the religious courts.
(B) To maintain law and order and collect revenue from their Iqta.

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2. Diwan
3. Faujdar
4. Kotwal

Which sequence represents the hierarchy from province to district to city level?

(A) 4 (Province) → 3 (District/Sarkar) → 1 & 2 (City/Town)
(B) 1 (Province) → 4 (District/Sarkar) → 3 (City/Town)
(C) 1 & 2 (Province) → 3 (District/Sarkar) → 4 (City/Town)
(D) 2 (Province) → 1 (District/Sarkar) → 4 (City/Town)

174. The high quality of Mughal coinage was a direct result of:
(A) The import of advanced minting technology from Europe.
(B) The use of a single mint for the entire empire.
(C) The low value of the metals used.
(D) The state's monopoly over minting and the maintenance of high metallic purity.

175. The Jat and Satnami revolts that occurred during Aurangzeb's reign can be classified as:
(A) Peasant revolts
(B) Palace coups
(C) Foreign invasions
(D) Merchant protests

176. Which one of the following was NOT a major source of state income in the Mughal Empire?
(A) Land revenue (Zabt, Nasaq, etc.)
(B) Income tax on the salaries of nobles
(C) Customs duties on trade
(D) Jizya (during the period it was levied)

177. The 'Nayankara system' of the Vijayanagara Empire can be best compared to which system of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The Spy system (Barids)
(B) The Iqta system
(C) The market control policies
(D) The currency system

178. Consider the following statements about the Jagirdari system:
1. It was a system of assigning land revenue in lieu of salary.
2. The jagirs were transferabl(E)
3. The jagirdar had administrative and judicial authority over his jagir.
4. The 'jagirdari crisis' refers to the scarcity of jagirs in the later Mughal perio(D)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All are correct

179. A merchant in medieval India needing to send money from Delhi to an agent in Bengal without physically carrying coins would most likely use a:
(A) Jagir
(B) Mansab
(C) Hundi
(D) Taccavi

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180. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Sher Shah is credited with establishing a highly efficient and centralized administration.
Reason (R) : He divided his empire into Sarkars and Parganas, established a strong spy system, and reformed the currency and revenue systems.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

181. What was the primary difference between the nature of the state under the Sultanate and the Marathas under Shivaji?
(A) The Sultanate was a theocracy, while the Maratha state was a modern secular state.
(B) The Sultanate state was based on the Iqta system, while the Maratha state was based on the Mansabdari system.
(C) The Sultanate was theoretically an Islamic state, while the Maratha state drew inspiration from indigenous traditions and was founded to establish 'Hindavi Swarajya'.
(D) Both states shared an identical structure and ideology with no discernible differences.

explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

219. The 'Sawar' rank in the Mansabdari system indicated:
(A) The mansabdar's personal salary.
(B) The mansabdar's position in the court hierarchy.
(C) The amount of land revenue the mansabdar could collect.
(D) The number of cavalrymen (troopers) the mansabdar was required to maintain.

220. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The frontier between the Bahamani and Vijayanagara kingdoms was a zone of constant conflict.
Statement II : The main prizes in this conflict were the fertile Raichur Doab, the Krishna-Godavari delta, and the Marathwada country.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

221. Which statement best describes the impact of European traders on the Indian Ocean trade in the 16th and 17th centuries?
(A) They peacefully integrated into the existing trade networks without any disruption.
(B) They abandoned maritime trade in favor of overland routes.
(C) They introduced superior naval power and sought to control and monopolize sea lanes and trade.
(D) They were quickly defeated and driven out by Indian naval forces.

222. Which of the following statements about the demographic structure is the most accurate?
(A) The population was evenly distributed across the subcontinent.
(B) Urban centers had a higher percentage of the population than rural areas.
(C) The population remained static with no growth or decline.
(D) The majority of the population was rural and engaged in agriculture.

223. What was the role of the 'Amil' or 'Amalguzar' in Mughal local administration?
(A) He was the officer in charge of revenue collection in a district (sarkar).
(B) He was the head of a city's police force.
(C) He was the judge in a provincial court.
(D) He was a military commander of a fort.

224. Consider the following pairs:
1. Diwan-i-Arz: Department of Military Affairs
2. Diwan-i-Risalat: Department of Religious Affairs
3. Diwan-i-Insha: Department of Finance
4. Diwan-i-Wizarat: Department of Royal Correspondence

Which of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 2
(B) 2 and 3
(C) 3 and 4
(D) 1 and 4

225. The establishment of karkhanas (royal workshops) by the Sultans and Mughals demonstrates:
(A) The state's lack of interest in economic activities.
(B) The state's role as a large-scale producer and consumer of luxury goods.
(C) The dominance of a free-market economy.
(D) The decline of artisanal skill.

226. Which of the following was a major cause of peasant revolts during the Mughal period?
(A) High land revenue demand and exploitation by intermediaries.
(B) Forced conversion to Islam.
(C) Conscription into the army.
(D) The introduction of a new currency system.

227. Match List I with List II regarding administrative features and their corresponding states.
List I: (Administrative Feature)
P. Centralized autocracy with Asta Pradhan
Q. Theocratic state with Iqta system
R. Militaristic state with Nayankara system
S. Bureaucratic empire with Mansabdari system
List II: (State)
1. Vijayanagara Empire
2. Mughal Empire

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(B) On a household and artisanal basis
(C) Through state-owned collective farms
(D) Through agricultural cooperatives

284. What was the relationship between industries and urbanization during this period?
(A) Flourishing industries fostered the growth of urban centers.
(B) Industrial decline led to a decrease in the urban population.
(C) Urbanization occurred independently of industrial activities.
(D) The state actively discouraged the growth of cities to promote agriculture.

285. The passage suggests that technology in medieval Indian industries was characterized by:
(A) rapid innovation and adoption of machinery.
(B) importation of advanced techniques from Europe.
(C) a reliance on traditional artisanal skill and process sophistication.
(D) a complete stagnation in methods and processes.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Trade and commerce were vital components of the medieval Indian economy, facilitated by deliberate state policies and an extensive network of routes. Both internal and external trade flourished. Internally, a vast network of roads connected major production centers and markets, and a system of riverine transport was also significant. The state played a crucial role by ensuring the safety of trade routes, levying customs and transit duties, and regulating markets. The arrival of European traders, starting with the Portuguese, marked a new phase in India's external trade. These European powers sought to control the lucrative spice trade and other high-value commodities, often using their naval power to establish dominance over sea lanes and ports. Major trade centers and ports like Surat, Calicut, and Hughli became bustling hubs of international commerce, connecting India to the markets of Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. The nature of European trade was distinct; they were not just another group of merchants but represented state-backed enterprises with political and military ambitions, which gradually altered the existing patterns of maritime trade. Communication and transport, though slow by modern standards, were sufficiently developed to support this extensive commercial activity, relying on caravans for land routes and a variety of sea-going vessels.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the passage, what was a key role of the state in promoting internal trade?
(A) Imposing a ban on all foreign goods
(B) Nationalizing all transport networks
(C) Granting a monopoly on internal trade to a single company
(D) Ensuring the safety of trade routes and regulating markets.

287. What distinguished the European traders from other merchants, as described in the source?
(A) They traded exclusively in agricultural goods.
(B) They operated solely through peaceful and diplomatic means.
(C) They were backed by states with political and military goals.
(D) They integrated seamlessly into existing local trade networks.

288. The passage mentions Surat, Calicut, and Hughli as examples of:
(A) inland agricultural production centers.
(B) major trade centers and port cities.
(C) military garrisons on the frontier.
(D) religious and pilgrimage destinations.

289. The arrival of European traders initiated a new phase in India's external trade primarily focused on:
(A) importing European technology into India.
(B) establishing overland trade routes to China.
(C) promoting cultural exchange programs between India and Europe.
(D) controlling the maritime trade of spices and other commodities.

290. Which of the following can be inferred about the transport system supporting medieval trade?
(A) It was a combination of land-based caravans and maritime vessels.

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(A) Jizya
(B) Hundi
(C) Taccavi
(D) Jagir

238. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Mughal frontier policy in the North-West was primarily defensive.
Statement II : The Mughals constantly sought to control the strategic cities of Kabul and Qandahar, which were vital for both security and trade, often leading to offensive campaigns.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

239. The most notable feature of the currency system standardized by Sher Shah Suri was:
(A) The introduction of the silver 'Rupiya' and copper 'Dam' of a fixed standard.
(B) The introduction of the first gold coins in India.
(C) The creation of a trimetallic system.
(D) The use of leather currency.

240. The term 'Sardeshmukhi' in Maratha administration referred to:
(A) The salary paid to the Commander-in-Chief.
(B) An additional 10% tax claimed by the Maratha king as the hereditary headman (Sardeshmukh) of the land.
(C) A grant of land for religious purposes.
(D) The finest quality of cotton produced in the Deccan.

241. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The village formed the basic unit of the economy in medieval India, characterized by a large degree of self-sufficiency.
Reason (R) : However, the payment of land revenue in cash and the trade in certain agricultural goods connected the village to the wider market and urban centers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

242. In the Mughal administration, who was the head of a province or 'Suba'?
(A) The Subadar or Nazim
(B) The Faujdar
(C) The Kotwal
(D) The Amil

243. The Bahamani kingdom's administration shows strong influences from the administrative practices of:
(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Chola Dynasty
(C) The Delhi Sultanate
(D) The Maratha State

244. Consider the following statements about medieval Indian industries:
1. Cotton textiles was the premier industry.
2. Production technology was primarily manual and skill-base(D)
3. 'Karkhanas' or royal workshops catered to the needs of the court.
4. Ship-building was a significant industry on the coasts.
5. Large-scale steam-powered factories were common.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

245. A significant cause of demographic change and urbanization during this period was:
(A) The state's policy of ruralization.
(B) The decline of all forms of trade.
(C) The establishment of military cantonments and administrative headquarters.
(D) A series of laws forcing people to move to cities.

246. The main purpose of the 'Diwan-i-Risalat' under the Delhi Sultans is generally considered to be related to:
(A) Military administration.
(B) Foreign affairs and matters related to religious endowments and appeals.
(C) Financial management.

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Relations with Deccan states like Bijapur and Golconda, and later the Marathas, remained a persistent challenge, oscillating between outright warfare, subsidiary alliances, and diplomatic negotiations, forming a major preoccupation for Mughal foreign policy.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. How did the nature of inter-state relations change with the rise of the Mughal Empire compared to the Sultanate period?
(A) They became more fragmented and decentralized.
(B) Military conflicts were completely replaced by diplomatic treaties.
(C) They shifted from a multi-polar conflict to a more centralized imperial system.
(D) Regional kingdoms gained complete autonomy from the central power.

272. During the Sultanate period, what were the primary tools used in inter-state relations as mentioned in the passage?
(A) Economic blockades and trade sanctions
(B) Military conflict, treaties, and matrimonial alliances
(C) Joint cultural festivals and religious synods
(D) The establishment of permanent embassies and consulates

273. The Mughal policy towards the Rajput states is described as a combination of:
(A) complete subjugation and cultural suppression.
(B) economic exploitation and strategic neglect.
(C) non-interference and mutual respect for sovereignty.
(D) military action and diplomatic integration.

274. Which group of states is mentioned as a persistent challenge for Mughal foreign policy in the Deccan?
(A) The states of Bijapur, Golconda, and the Marathas
(B) The kingdoms of Gujarat and Malwa
(C) The regional powers of Bengal and Assam
(D) The Rajput states of Mewar and Marwar

275. What can be inferred about inter-state relations during the Sultanate era?
(A) The Delhi Sultanate exercised unchallenged authority over all other kingdoms.
(B) A stable balance of power existed among all regional states.
(C) The political landscape was characterized by competition among multiple power centers.
(D) Relations were governed by a formal, universally accepted code of conduct.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The village economy formed the bedrock of the medieval Indian state, with agricultural production being the primary source of revenue. The state took a keen interest in the extension and improvement of cultivation. This is evident in the development of irrigation systems, such as canals, wells, and tanks, which were crucial for sustaining and expanding agricultural output, especially in arid regions. The peasantry, far from being a homogenous group, was highly stratified, ranging from wealthy landholders with proprietary rights to landless laborers. The state's relationship with the peasantry was primarily fiscal, centered on the collection of land revenue. To facilitate agricultural activities and provide relief during distress, rulers often provided agricultural loans, famously known as 'taccavi'. These loans were intended to help peasants purchase seeds, tools, and bullocks, particularly after natural calamities like famines or floods, with the expectation that this would ensure continued cultivation and, consequently, a stable revenue stream for the state. In addition to direct cultivation, the system of grants, where revenue from a piece of land was assigned to religious individuals or institutions, was also a significant feature of the rural landscape, impacting the village economy and social structure.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What was the primary purpose of providing 'taccavi' loans to the peasantry?
(A) To support agricultural production and ensure future revenue collection
(B) To encourage peasants to shift from agriculture to handicrafts
(C) To fund the personal expenses of revenue officials
(D) To create a system of permanent

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254. Based on the source, the succession to the throne in the Delhi Sultanate was ultimately determined by:
(A) a clear system of inheritance by the eldest son.
(B) a council of religious scholars (Ulema).
(C) the formal decree issued by the Caliph.
(D) the nominee's ability to consolidate military and political support.

255. How did the administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate manage its vast territories, as described in the passage?
(A) By establishing a single, centralized command with no intermediaries
(B) By exclusively relying on local chieftains for all functions
(C) By creating a hierarchical system of central, provincial, and local tiers
(D) By outsourcing all revenue collection to independent contractors

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Mughal administration represented a sophisticated and systematic governing structure, with the Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems forming its backbone. Sher Shah's administrative reforms, particularly in land revenue and military organization, served as a significant precursor. The Mughal system, however, was more elaborate. The Mansabdari system was a unique institution wherein the nobility, bureaucracy, and military were integrated into a single imperial service. Each officer, or Mansabdar, was assigned a rank (mansab) that determined their status, salary, and, crucially, the number of cavalrymen and transport animals they were required to maintain. The salary was typically paid not in cash but through assignments of land revenue from a territory known as a Jagir. This practice gave rise to the Jagirdari system. It is vital to distinguish that a Jagir was not a land grant but an assignment of revenue; the Mansabdar had no proprietary or administrative rights over the Jagir itself, which remained under the purview of central and provincial officials. The system, while efficient in centralizing power, contained inherent tensions. Frequent transfer of Jagirs prevented nobles from developing local roots but also created a sense of insecurity and led to the exploitation of the peasantry for short-term gains.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. Which statement accurately reflects the relationship between the Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems in the Mughal administration?
(A) The Mansabdari system was a subordinate component of the larger Jagirdari framework.
(B) The Jagirdari system was a method for paying the salary determined by a Mansabdar's rank.
(C) All Jagirdars were senior Mansabdars, but not all Mansabdars were granted Jagirs.
(D) The two systems were entirely separate, one being military and the other purely agricultural.

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257. According to the passage, the administrative reforms of which ruler are considered a significant precursor to the elaborate Mughal system?
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(C) Akbar
(D) Sher Shah Suri

258. What was a primary negative consequence of the frequent transfer of Jagirs for Mansabdars?
(A) It led to the over-exploitation of peasants to maximize immediate revenue.
(B) It encouraged Mansabdars to invest in long-term agricultural development.
(C) It fostered strong, localized power bases for the nobility.
(D) It created administrative confusion between central and provincial authorities.

259. The passage clarifies that a Jagir granted to a Mansabdar was essentially an assignment of:
(A) administrative and judicial authority over a piece of land.
(B) proprietary ownership of the territory for hereditary succession.
(C) the right to collect a specified amount of land revenue.
(D) military command over the local population of the area.

(D) The royal post and intelligence.

247. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched regarding Mughal administration?
(A) Subadar - Provincial Governor
(B) Diwan - Provincial Revenue Head
(C) Kotwal - Head of City Police
(D) Faujdar - Head of a Pargana

248. The term 'Hundi' is best defined as:
(A) A bill of exchange
(B) A land revenue grant
(C) A form of insurance
(D) A tax on trade

249. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : Under Shivaji, the posts in the Asta Pradhan were not hereditary.
Statement II : After Shivaji, particularly under the Peshwas, ministerial and other administrative posts tended to become hereditary.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

250. The frequent peasant revolts during the late half of Aurangzeb's reign indicate:
(A) A deep-seated crisis in the agrarian economy and the administrative machinery.
(B) The success of his economic policies.
(C) A period of unprecedented peace and prosperity.
(D) The overwhelming influence of European trading companies.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate was a complex amalgamation of Islamic political theories and Indian traditions. The nature of the state has been a subject of intense academic debate, with some scholars defining it as 'theocratic', governed directly by religious law, while others prefer the term 'theocentric', indicating a state where religious considerations were central but not the sole determinant of policy. In practice, the Sultans, while acknowledging the supremacy of the Sharia, often had to formulate policies based on political exigencies (Zawabit). The administration was hierarchical, with the Sultan at the apex, supported by a central machinery. Below this were the provincial (iqta) and local administrations, which were crucial for revenue collection and maintaining order. The 'Law of succession' was a significant point of instability. Unlike a clear system of primogeniture, the Sultanate often witnessed bloody conflicts and power struggles among the sons of a deceased ruler, nobles, and influential commanders. This absence of a fixed and universally accepted law of succession meant that the throne was not secured by birthright alone but by the ability to command loyalty and wield military power, making the entire political structure perpetually vulnerable to internal strife and coups.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, which term best describes a state where religious principles are a central guiding force but not the exclusive basis for all state policy?
(A) Theocratic
(B) Theocentric
(C) Autocratic
(D) Hierarchical

252. What does the passage identify as the primary cause of perennial instability within the Delhi Sultanate's political framework?
(A) The absence of a fixed and peaceful law of succession
(B) The constant threat of external invasions
(C) The economic burden of the provincial administration
(D) The conflict between central and local authorities

253. The passage mentions 'Zawabit' as state laws formulated by the Sultans. What can be inferred about the purpose of these laws?
(A) To strictly enforce the principles of Sharia without exception
(B) To delegate all law-making authority to the provincial governors
(C) To deal with political necessities that were not covered by the Sharia
(D) To abolish the traditional Indian legal customs entirely

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carefully.

The management of frontiers was a critical aspect of statecraft for both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals, as their vast empires were perennially exposed to threats from the northwest. The frontier policies of the Delhi Sultans, particularly rulers like Balban and Alauddin Khalji, were largely defensive. They involved the construction and garrisoning of a chain of forts, the creation of a standing army, and at times, preemptive strikes against Mongol incursions. The objective was containment and the protection of the core territories of North India. The Mughals inherited this challenge but adopted a more forward-looking and dynamic policy. Under Akbar and his successors, the focus shifted from mere defense to active engagement and control over strategic regions like Kabul, Qandahar, and the tribal territories. This 'forward policy' aimed to create a buffer zone and control the key entry points into Hindustan. The control of these regions was considered vital not only for military security but also for safeguarding the overland trade routes to Central Asia and Persia. This proactive stance, however, was resource-intensive and involved complex diplomacy and continuous military campaigns to manage the turbulent Afghan tribes, signifying a major evolution from the largely reactive policies of the Sultanate period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

267. The passage identifies the Mughal 'forward policy' as being motivated by which dual objectives?
(A) Religious conversion and cultural assimilation
(B) Military security and protection of trade routes
(C) Agricultural expansion and peasant settlement
(D) Establishment of naval bases and maritime control

268. How did the Mughal frontier policy differ fundamentally from that of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) The Mughals shifted from a reactive to a proactive and controlling stance.
(B) The Mughals abandoned the use of forts and garrisons.
(C) The Delhi Sultans successfully pacified all frontier tribes permanently.
(D) The Mughals relied exclusively on diplomacy, unlike the Sultans.

269. According to the source, what was a significant drawback of the Mughal's proactive frontier policy?
(A) It led to the neglect of internal administration.
(B) It alienated the Rajput states.
(C) It was highly expensive in terms of resources and military effort.
(D) It caused a decline in overland trade with Central Asia.

270. The construction of a chain of forts and the maintenance of a standing army for border protection are policies associated with which rulers in the passage?
(A) Akbar and Shah Jahan
(B) Sher Shah and Islam Shah
(C) Babur and Humayun
(D) Balban and Alauddin Khalji

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Inter-state relations during the Sultanate and Mughal periods were a dynamic interplay of conflict, diplomacy, and strategic alliances, shaped by ambitions for territorial expansion and regional dominance. During the Sultanate era, relations were often characterized by fragmented power, with the Delhi Sultanate vying for supremacy against independent regional kingdoms like Bengal, Gujarat, Malwa, and the Bahmani Sultanate in the Deccan. These interactions were predominantly military, punctuated by temporary treaties and matrimonial alliances designed to secure frontiers or gain a strategic advantage. The rise of the Mughal Empire fundamentally altered this political landscape. The Mughals pursued a policy of systematic expansion and integration, seeking to bring the regional states under their suzerainty. This led to a more centralized pattern of inter-state relations, where regional powers had to define their relationship primarily with the imperial center in Delhi or Agra. Rajput states, for instance, were integrated through a mix of military conquest and diplomatic maneuvering, including matrimonial alliances and high-ranking positions in the Mughal nobility (Mansabdari system).

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260. What was the core function of the Mansabdari system as described in the source?
(A) To integrate the nobility, army, and bureaucracy into one service
(B) To create a hereditary landed aristocracy
(C) To separate the military and civil bureaucracy
(D) To manage the empire's trade and commerce

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The administrative systems in the Deccan during the medieval period exhibited distinct regional characteristics while sharing some commonalities with their northern counterparts. The Vijayanagara State, a formidable polity, developed a comprehensive administrative structure. Its governance was monarchical, but the king was assisted by a council of ministers. The empire was divided into provinces (Rajyas or Mandalas), which were further subdivided, creating a multi-tiered system. A unique feature was the Nayankara system, where military chiefs or 'Nayakas' were granted territories in exchange for tribute and military service, a system bearing some resemblance to feudal arrangements. In contrast, the Bahamani Administrative System, which preceded the rise of its successor Deccan Sultanates, was heavily influenced by the Delhi Sultanate's model, featuring a centralized structure with nobles (amirs) holding significant power. Later, the Maratha Administration under Shivaji introduced the highly efficient 'Asta Pradhan' (Council of Eight Ministers). Each of the eight ministers held a specific portfolio, such as the Peshwa (Prime Minister) and the Amatya (Finance Minister), advising the king and overseeing their respective departments. This council was not a cabinet in the modern sense, as the king's authority was supreme, but it established a systematic and departmentalized approach to governance that was crucial for the nascent Maratha state's success.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. Which administrative feature is described as being unique to the Vijayanagara State?
(A) The Asta Pradhan council
(B) The division of the empire into provinces
(C) The supreme authority of the monarch
(D) The Nayankara system

262. The passage suggests that the Bahamani Administrative System was most heavily influenced by the model of which power?
(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Delhi Sultanate
(C) The Maratha State
(D) The European trading companies

263. What was the primary function of the 'Asta Pradhan' in the Maratha administration?
(A) To act as a supreme governing body with powers to overrule the king
(B) To function as a military high command for planning campaigns
(C) To serve as a council of eight ministers, each with a specific departmental portfolio
(D) To operate as a judicial body for interpreting religious law

264. The Nayankara system of the Vijayanagara Empire involved granting territories to military chiefs in exchange for:
(A) cash salaries and administrative duties.
(B) hereditary ownership and judicial rights.
(C) religious services and temple maintenance.
(D) tribute payments and military support.

265. A key difference highlighted between the Asta Pradhan and a modern cabinet is that:
(A) the king's authority was supreme and not bound by the council's advice.
(B) the Asta Pradhan had more members than a typical cabinet.
(C) the ministers of the Asta Pradhan were elected by the people.
(D) the Asta Pradhan was exclusively focused on revenue administration.

266. What was the primary characteristic of the frontier policy under the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Primarily offensive and expansionist
(B) Largely defensive and focused on containment
(C) Based on diplomatic alliances with frontier tribes
(D) Focused on encouraging trade over military security

Direction : Please read the following source

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indebtedness among farmers

277. The passage describes the peasantry in medieval India as:
(A) a homogenous community with equal landholdings.
(B) a class of laborers completely detached from the land.
(C) an organized political force that influenced state policy.
(D) a socially and economically stratified group.

278. According to the source, why was the state particularly interested in developing irrigation systems?
(A) To provide clean drinking water to urban centers
(B) To sustain and expand agricultural production
(C) To facilitate inland water transport and trade
(D) To create employment for a large non-agricultural workforce

279. What can be inferred about the state's main interest in the village economy?
(A) It was primarily driven by social welfare and philanthropic goals.
(B) It was focused on promoting religious institutions through land grants.
(C) It was centered on the need to maintain a stable and predictable source of revenue.
(D) It aimed to transform the rural economy into an industrial one.

280. Besides direct taxation, what other mechanism mentioned in the passage influenced the village economy?
(A) The mandatory conscription of peasants into the army
(B) The state monopoly on the sale of agricultural produce
(C) The forced cultivation of specific cash crops for export
(D) The system of assigning revenue grants to religious bodies.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

During the medieval period, India's industrial sector was vibrant, characterized by a high level of craftsmanship and diverse production. Cotton textiles were the preeminent industry, with Indian fabrics being in high demand both domestically and in international markets. Production was organized on a household or artisanal basis, with skills passed down through generations. Besides textiles, various handicrafts and agro-based industries, such as sugar, oil, and indigo production, flourished. A significant feature of the organization of production, particularly for the state and nobility, was the system of royal workshops or 'factories' known as karkhanas. These were not factories in the modern sense of machine-based mass production but were large establishments that employed a multitude of skilled artisans to produce luxury goods and articles for the consumption of the court, the royal household, and the army. This system allowed for a high degree of quality control and specialization. While technology remained largely traditional, based on artisanal skill, there was considerable sophistication in processes like dyeing, weaving, and metallurgy. The overall demographic structure remained overwhelmingly rural, but these industries fostered significant urbanization, leading to the growth of specialized production centers and bustling commercial towns.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. What was the most prominent industry in medieval India, according to the passage?
(A) Cotton textile production
(B) Metallurgy and weapon manufacturing
(C) Agro-based industries like sugar and oil
(D) Handicrafts made from ivory and wood

282. The term 'karkhanas' in the context of medieval Indian industries refers to:
(A) modern factories with automated machinery.
(B) state-sponsored workshops employing artisans for royal needs
(C) open-air markets for selling artisanal goods.
(D) guilds of independent merchants and traders.

283. How was industrial production, such as textiles, primarily organized?
(A) On a large-scale, machine-based factory system

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3. Delhi Sultanate
4. Maratha State (under Shivaji)

(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

228. In the context of the Sultanate administration, the succession to the throne was most often decided by:
(A) The last will of the deceased Sultan.
(B) A vote among the ulema.
(C) The principle of primogeniture.
(D) The support of powerful nobles and military strength.

229. Read the given statements and select the correct answer.
Statement I : The Indian economy during the Mughal period was primarily a subsistence economy with no significant trade.
Statement II : There was a vibrant commercial sector with extensive internal and external trade, and a developed system of finance.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

230. The 'Jagirdari crisis' of the late Mughal period was a direct consequence of:
(A) The success of the Mansabdari system.
(B) The imbalance between the number of mansabdars and the availability of revenue-yielding land (jagirs).
(C) The rise of European trade.
(D) The decline in agricultural production.

231. The administrative reforms of Sher Shah Suri were significant because they:
(A) Were entirely original and had no historical precedent.
(B) Were adopted almost wholesale by his Lodi predecessors.
(C) Led to the decentralization and weakening of the state.
(D) Provided a blueprint for the administrative structure of the Mughal empire under Akbar.

232. All of the following were part of the Maratha 'Asta Pradhan' EXCEPT:
(A) Faujdar
(B) Peshwa
(C) Amatya
(D) Sumant

233. The relationship between the Mughals and the Rajput states is best described as:
(A) One of constant and unrelenting warfare.
(B) A relationship of complete Mughal dominance and Rajput subjugation.
(C) A complex one involving conflict, cooperation, and integration into the Mughal nobility.
(D) A relationship of equals with no interference in each other's affairs.

234. Consider the following aspects of the Mughal administration:
1. Division of the empire into Subas, Sarkars, and Parganas.
2. A graded system of officials known as the Mansabdari system.
3. A system of revenue assignments called Jagirs.
4. A standardized trimetallic currency.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

235. The primary role of the 'Senapati' in the Maratha Asta Pradhan was:
(A) Chief Justice
(B) Foreign Minister
(C) Finance Minister
(D) Commander-in-Chief

236. Which of the following was a key feature of the Vijayanagara polity?
(A) The Asta Pradhan council
(B) The Nayankara system
(C) The Iqta system
(D) The Mansabdari system

237. In medieval India, if a farmer faced crop failure due to drought and needed assistance from the state to buy new seeds and oxen, he would seek a loan known as:

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(B) It was exclusively based on a sophisticated road network.
(C) It was ineffective and severely limited the scope of commerce.
(D) It was advanced enough to include steam-powered vehicles.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The commercial sophistication of the medieval Indian economy is exemplified by its well-developed financial instruments, particularly the Hundi, or bill of exchange. The Hundi was a crucial tool for trade and commerce, acting as a credit note that facilitated the transfer of funds from one place to another without the physical movement of currency. This system greatly reduced the risks associated with carrying large sums of money over long and often perilous transport routes. Hundis were issued by specialized bankers or money-changers, known as 'sarrafs', who operated extensive networks across the subcontinent. Alongside this credit system, a form of insurance also existed. Merchants could have their goods insured against loss during transit, whether by land or sea, upon payment of a premium. The rates varied depending on the route's safety, the season, and the nature of the goods. These financial mechanisms—Hundi and insurance—demonstrate a high level of commercial organization and trust within the mercantile community. They were indispensable for the smooth functioning of long-distance internal and external trade, connecting disparate markets and underwriting the substantial risks involved in the movement of high-value goods across vast territories.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What was the primary function of the Hundi in the medieval Indian economy?
(A) To serve as a standardized form of paper currency for daily use
(B) To act as a legal document for land ownership
(C) To function as a credit instrument for transferring funds without using cash
(D) To represent a share in a state-owned trading enterprise

292. Who were the 'sarrafs' mentioned in the passage?
(A) Bankers or money-changers who issued Hundis
(B) Captains of sea-going vessels
(C) Commanders of military caravans
(D) Artisans who produced luxury goods

293. According to the source, what was a major advantage of using the Hundi system?
(A) It eliminated the need for customs duties at ports.
(B) It guaranteed a fixed profit margin for merchants.
(C) It provided a means for tax evasion from the state.
(D) It reduced the risk of theft during the transport of money.

294. The passage describes the existence of an insurance system for merchants. What did this system primarily cover?
(A) Crop failure due to natural disasters
(B) Loss of goods during transit by land or sea
(C) Fluctuation in market prices of commodities
(D) Bankruptcy of business partners

295. The existence of sophisticated instruments like Hundi and insurance indicates what about the medieval Indian economy?
(A) A simple barter system with no financial complexity
(B) The complete dominance of state-controlled banking
(C) A high degree of commercial organization and trust
(D) A general lack of long-distance trade

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The fiscal health of the medieval state was intrinsically linked to its income and expenditure, which in turn had profound effects on social stability. The primary source of state income was land revenue, supplemented by various other taxes, including customs duties (on trade), and minting operations. The state's expenditure was massive, largely consumed by the maintenance of the army and the vast administrative apparatus, including the nobility. A standardized currency and a well-regulated mint system were essential

and support staff. This concentration of people and wealth attracted artisans, merchants, and service providers, leading to the rapid growth of cities. These urban centers became hubs of consumption, cultural exchange, and diverse economic activities beyond simple agriculture.

55. (D) The overall population density was significantly higher than it is today.
While medieval India had a large and vibrant population, its overall density was far lower than modern levels. Most people resided in small, rural villages, and many vast areas remained forested or uncultivated. Demographic growth was relatively slow, frequently interrupted by natural disasters such as famines and epidemics, as well as the periodic disruptions caused by warfare. Consequently, the subcontinent's total population was only a fraction of what it would become in later centuries.

56. (A) A small town or a large village with a market.
The term qasba referred to a specific type of settlement that bridged the gap between rural villages and large cities. These small towns usually functioned as local administrative hubs and hosted regular markets where surrounding villagers could trade their surplus goods. By providing essential services and acting as centers for local commerce, qasbas played a vital role in integrating the rural and urban economies, facilitating the flow of goods and information across regions.

57. (C) The rapid urbanization of the new site and a shift in trade routes.
When a Mughal emperor established a new capital, it triggered a massive movement of people and resources to the chosen location. The presence of the imperial court necessitated the construction of palaces, markets, and infrastructure, drawing thousands of artisans and merchants. This sudden concentration of wealth and political power often redirected trade routes toward the new center, creating a thriving urban environment while simultaneously reducing the economic and demographic prominence of the previous capital.

58. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Medieval India featured various regional specializations in industrial and craft production. Bengal and Gujarat were globally renowned for their high-quality cotton textiles, while Kashmir became famous for its exquisite woollen shawls. The region of Golconda was the primary source for diamond mining, attracting international traders. Meanwhile, shipbuilding flourished along the Malabar Coast and in Bengal due to their proximity to timber and major maritime trade routes, supporting both commerce and naval needs.

59. (D) Bengal
During the Mughal period, Bengal emerged as a premier center for the production of exceptionally fine cotton textiles. Its weavers were particularly famous for muslin, a delicate and highly prized fabric that was exported across Asia and Europe. The region's fertile soil and access to skilled labor allowed for large-scale production, making Bengal a vital contributor to India's external trade and one of the wealthiest provinces within the entire Mughal administrative system.

60. (B) A wide variety of handicrafts, including metalwork, jewelry, and stone carving, flourished.
The medieval period was a golden age for Indian handicrafts, characterized by high levels of skill and artistic innovation. Artisans produced an immense range of goods, from intricate metalware and fine jewelry to sophisticated stone carvings and woven carpets. These products were highly sought after by both the local nobility and international merchants. The continuous patronage of the imperial courts and the demands of global trade ensured that these traditional industries remained vibrant and economically significant.

61. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Agro-based industries were a cornerstone of the medieval economy, transforming agricultural raw materials into valuable trade goods. The processing of sugar, the extraction of oils, and the production of indigo dye provided essential products for daily life and profitable exports. Because these items were in high demand both within India and in foreign markets, farmers were incentivized to grow cash crops, which in turn supported the growth of specialized rural and urban processing centers.

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ANSWERS

1. (B) The supreme executive, legislative, and judicial authority.
The Sultan within the Delhi Sultanate functioned as the supreme head of the state, wielding absolute power over all administrative branches. He acted as the chief commander of the armed forces and the final judge in legal disputes. While advised by various ministers, his personal will remained the highest law of the land, ensuring centralized control over the vast territories acquired during the period of expansion.

2. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Delhi Sultanate operated as a political entity where Islamic principles significantly influenced governance and legal structures. Sultans often sought religious legitimacy by positioning themselves as protectors of the faith, while the judicial system relied heavily on Shariat for civil and criminal matters. This intersection of political power and religious doctrine created a framework where the ruler functioned as both a secular leader and a religious figurehead.

3. (C) A state in which God is considered the ultimate sovereign and the ruler is His deputy.
A theocentric state model signifies that religious doctrine serves as the foundation for political authority and governance. In this context, sovereignty is symbolically attributed to the divine, with the earthly ruler acting as a representative or deputy responsible for implementing sacred laws. This concept reinforced the legitimacy of the Sultan, as his leadership was framed as a duty to uphold religious order and spiritual mandates.

4. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The central administration of the Delhi Sultanate featured a complex and departmentalized structure designed to manage the needs of a growing empire. Various specialized departments, such as those handling finance and military affairs, were established to ensure organizational efficiency. Each department was headed by powerful ministers and officials who advised the Sultan, allowing for systematic control over revenue, defense, and the general state bureaucracy.

5. (C) The provincial governor was responsible for maintaining law and order and collecting revenue in their jurisdiction.
Provincial administration in the Delhi Sultanate was organized through the assignment of territories to governors who represented the Sultan's authority locally. These officials were primarily tasked with keeping the peace, suppressing rebellions, and ensuring the timely collection of land revenue for the central treasury. While they exercised significant power within their jurisdictions, they remained ultimately accountable to the Sultan and could be transferred or dismissed.

6. (B) Shiq
During the era of the Delhi Sultanate, administrative divisions were created to streamline revenue collection and local governance. A province or iqta was typically divided into smaller units known as shiqs, which were further subdivided into parganas. Each shiq was placed under the authority of a shiqdar, an official responsible for maintaining law and order while facilitating the efficient assessment and gathering of agricultural taxes.

7. (A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
The administration of the Delhi Sultanate was organized into distinct departments to manage various state functions. The Diwan-i-Arz oversaw military affairs, while the Diwan-i-Risalat handled religious matters and legal appeals. Royal correspondence was the responsibility of the Diwan-i-Insha, and the Diwan-i-Wizarat, led by the Wazir, managed the state finances. These specialized offices ensured a structured and efficient central governance system for the ruling Sultans.

8. (A) The principle of primogeniture was strictly and consistently followed.
Successions in the Delhi Sultanate were often marked by instability because no clear or

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for the smooth functioning of this fiscal structure, enabling the collection of revenue in cash and the payment of salaries. However, this system was vulnerable to shocks. Famines, caused by drought or other natural calamities, could devastate agricultural production, leading to a sharp decline in state income and widespread social distress. Such crises often became a catalyst for peasant revolts. When the state's revenue demands remained high or were enforced rigidly during times of hardship, the peasantry, already struggling for subsistence, could be pushed into open rebellion. These revolts were not merely protests against poverty but were often directed against the state's revenue-collecting agents and what was perceived as an oppressive fiscal system, highlighting the fragile balance between state extraction and peasant subsistence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What constituted the two largest items of expenditure for the medieval state, according to the passage?
(A) Religious endowments and public welfare
(B) The construction of monuments and palaces
(C) The payment of tribute to foreign powers
(D) The army and the administrative machinery

297. The passage links famines to peasant revolts by explaining that:
(A) revolts were often a response to the state's inflexible revenue demands during crises.
(B) famines strengthened the state's ability to control the population.
(C) famines led to a surplus of food, causing prices to collapse and angering peasants.
(D) revolts were primarily organized by nobles to take advantage of famines.

298. What was the principal source of income for the medieval state as described in the source?
(A) Customs duties from external trade
(B) Revenue collected from land
(C) Profits from state-owned industries
(D) Tributes from subordinate rulers

299. Why was a standardized currency and mint system considered essential for the state?
(A) To facilitate international diplomacy
(B) To enable the collection of revenue and payment of salaries in cash
(C) To promote a single national identity
(D) To create artistic and culturally significant coins

300. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the nature of peasant revolts?
(A) They were often a direct reaction against the state's fiscal policies.
(B) They were always successful in overthrowing the ruling dynasty.
(C) They were spontaneous and lacked any specific target.
(D) They were isolated incidents with no impact on state stability.

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Administrative evolution in medieval India followed a clear chronological path. The Diwan-i-Arz was established early during the Delhi Sultanate to manage military affairs. Later, Sher Shah Suri introduced significant land revenue reforms during his mid-sixteenth-century reign. Akbar then institutionalized the Mansabdari system to organize the Mughal nobility. Finally, in the seventeenth century, Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan council to govern the Maratha state, representing a shift toward indigenous administrative traditions.

17. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
While every jagirdar held a specific rank within the Mughal administrative hierarchy as a mansabdar, not every mansabdar was necessarily assigned a jagir. Some officials, known as naqdi, were paid their salaries directly in cash from the imperial treasury. However, because the assignment of a jagir was always dependent on an official's mansab and salary claim, the status of being a jagirdar was inextricably linked.

18. (A) The provincial Diwan was appointed by and accountable to the Subadar.
Mughal provincial administration utilized a system of checks and balances to prevent any single official from becoming too powerful. The Subadar acted as the political and military head, while the provincial Diwan managed revenue and finance. Crucially, the Diwan was appointed by the central government and reported directly to the imperial Wazir, rather than the Subadar. This independence ensured that financial oversight remained directly under the emperor's control.

19. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
The Mughal Empire maintained a detailed administrative hierarchy with specific officials managing different levels and functions. The Subadar led the overall administration of a province, while the Diwan focused on revenue matters. At the provincial level, the Bakhshi managed military records and payments. For smaller districts or sarkars, the Faujdar was responsible for maintaining law and order, ensuring that imperial authority was present even in rural regions.

20. (D) Chief police officer of a town or city, responsible for maintaining law and order.
In the urban centers of the Mughal Empire, the Kotwal served as the primary official responsible for municipal administration and internal security. His duties included patrolling the streets, regulating markets, and maintaining a register of residents to prevent crime. As the chief police officer, he ensured that cities remained stable and orderly, acting as the visible representative of imperial authority for the urban population and visiting merchants.

21. (C) The principle of hereditary succession to a mansab.
The Mansabdari system was designed to be a non-hereditary meritocracy where ranks were granted and maintained at the emperor's discretion. Upon the death of an official, his rank and associated jagir did not automatically pass to his heirs; instead, his property was often escheated to the state. This policy prevented the nobility from becoming an entrenched landed aristocracy and ensured that officials remained dependent on the ruler's favor.

22. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
The Jagirdari system was a complex revenue arrangement where officials collected taxes without possessing land ownership. Frequent transfers were mandated to limit local influence, and various types of jagirs existed to fulfill different administrative needs. While it successfully funded the nobility for centuries, the system eventually faced a severe crisis. An increasing number of mansabdars led to a shortage of productive land, undermining the stability of the entire Mughal state.

23. (D) It was a centralized and militaristic state, with the king having absolute power.
The Vijayanagara Empire was characterized by a powerful, centralized monarchy where the ruler exercised absolute authority over the military and administration. This militaristic structure was essential for defending the kingdom against frequent northern invasions and maintaining control over diverse southern territories. The king's supreme status was reinforced through grand public rituals and a vast bureaucracy that ensured his commands were executed across the empire's various provinces.

24. (A) Sumant (Foreign Minister)

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Within the Maratha administrative framework established by Shivaji, the Asta Pradhan consisted of eight ministers with specialized portfolios. When dealing with external relations, diplomatic missions, or treaties with other powers, the ruler relied on the Sumant. This official acted as the foreign minister, providing expert advice on inter-state matters and ensuring that the Maratha state effectively navigated the complex political landscape of seventeenth-century India.

25. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Nayankara system was a defining feature of Vijayanagara administration, designed to maintain a large military force across a sprawling empire. Under this system, the king granted land territories to military chiefs, known as Nayakas, in exchange for their loyalty and service. These chiefs provided troops during wartime and contributed a portion of their collected revenue to the central treasury, effectively decentralizing military management while ensuring resources.

26. (A) The Delhi Sultanate.
The Bahamani Kingdom, established in the Deccan during the fourteenth century, heavily drew upon the administrative traditions of the Delhi Sultanate. Its founders and early officials were familiar with the Sultanate's methods of central and provincial governance, including the use of specialized ministers and revenue collection practices. This structural continuity helped the Bahamani rulers establish a stable state by adapting familiar Islamic administrative models to the unique context.

27. (D) Iqta System - Delhi Sultanate
Medieval Indian states developed distinct administrative systems to manage land and revenue. The Delhi Sultanate utilized the Iqta system, where revenue assignments were given to officials in exchange for military and administrative services. Similarly, the Vijayanagara Empire relied on the Nayankara system, and the Mughals later introduced the Mansabdari system. The Maratha state used the Asta Pradhan for central governance. Each system reflected the specific political and military needs of its respective dynasty.

28. (B) Prime Minister
The Peshwa held the most prominent position within the Asta Pradhan, the council of eight ministers serving the Maratha king. Acting as the prime minister, the Peshwa was responsible for the overall supervision of the administration and the general welfare of the state. While originally an advisory role under Shivaji, the office eventually became the most powerful political position in the Maratha Empire, coordinating both civil and military affairs.

29. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan as a council of ministers chosen for their competence and loyalty to the crown. During his reign, these positions were strictly based on merit and the king's discretion, rather than being hereditary. This ensured that the administration remained efficient and responsive. It was only during the later period of the Peshwas that many high-ranking administrative offices within the Maratha state began to pass from father to son.

30. (D) A centralized autocracy with an advisory council of ministers.
Shivaji's administration was centered on his absolute authority as the sovereign, yet it was supported by a structured council of ministers. This system, known as the Asta Pradhan, allowed the ruler to receive expert advice on various state functions while retaining final decision-making power. This model of centralized autocracy enabled the Maratha state to remain highly organized and militarily agile, providing a strong alternative to the prevailing feudal structures of the time.

31. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The administration of Vijayanagara combined strong central control with organized local systems. The king headed a government that divided the empire into provinces for better management. At the local level, the Nayankara system provided military support through land-holding chiefs, while the Ayagar system ensured that village affairs remained autonomous and self-regulating. These integrated features allowed the empire to maintain political stability and social order across its vast and diverse southern territories.

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32. (B) The 'Asta Pradhan' was the central advisory council.
The Bahamani administration was primarily influenced by Persian traditions and the practices of the Delhi Sultanate, featuring a centralized hierarchy led by the Sultan. The kingdom was divided into provinces called tarafs, each managed by a governor. While the Sultan was advised by various ministers, the specific council known as the Asta Pradhan was a unique institution of the Maratha state and was not part of the Bahamani administrative structure.

33. (B) Subadar
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan was a specific council comprising eight ministerial positions, including the Peshwa, Amatya, and Sumant, each with clearly defined responsibilities in the central government. While the term Subadar was commonly used in the Mughal and later Maratha administrations to refer to a provincial governor, it was not one of the eight specific titles that made up the original Asta Pradhan council established by Shivaji for central administration.

34. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Asta Pradhan in the Maratha state assigned specific portfolios to each of its eight members to ensure comprehensive governance. The Amatya managed the state's finances and accounts, while the Sachiv was responsible for royal correspondence. Military leadership fell to the Senapati, who acted as the commander-in-chief. Legal and judicial matters were overseen by the Nyayadhish. This division of labor allowed for the professional management of various specialized state departments.

35. (C) Defending against Mongol invasions.
Throughout the period of the Delhi Sultanate, the North-West frontier remained a critical concern due to the constant threat of Mongol incursions. Rulers like Balban and Alauddin Khilji focused their military strategies on fortifying this region, building defensive walls, and stationing elite troops in border garrisons. Their primary goal was to prevent devastating raids and maintain the security of the heartland, leading to a largely defensive and vigilant frontier policy.

36. (D) The policy focused on maintaining control over strategic locations like Kabul, Qandahar, and the Khyber Pass.
The Mughal Empire viewed the North-West frontier as the primary gateway to the Indian subcontinent and essential for imperial security. Their policy centered on securing strategic outposts such as Kabul and Qandahar, which served as defensive bulwarks and major trading hubs. By maintaining a strong military presence and diplomatic ties with local tribes, the Mughals sought to stabilize this turbulent region and protect the empire from Central Asian threats and Persian ambitions.

37. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Securing the North-West frontier was a major strategic priority for the Mughal emperors, requiring immense financial and military investment. Locations like Kabul and Qandahar were vital because they controlled the narrow passes through which armies and trade caravans entered India. By holding these "twin gates," the Mughals could monitor potential invasions and ensure that the lucrative overland trade with Persia and Central Asia remained under their influence and protection.

38. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The frontier policies of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire reflected their different strategic capacities and ambitions. The Sultanate generally focused on defensive measures to protect the core territories from external raids. In contrast, the Mughals adopted a more proactive stance, often launching offensive campaigns to secure strategic outposts deep in the mountains. Both dynasties recognized that controlling the access points in the North-West was fundamental to maintaining their political survival.

39. (D) A neutral or semi-independent state located between two larger, rival powers.
In the context of medieval diplomacy, a buffer state served as a strategic geographical cushion between two competing empires. These semi-independent territories helped reduce the risk of direct military confrontation by separating the major powers' borders. By supporting these smaller states, large empires like the Mughals or the Safavids could maintain a level of security

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without the high cost of full annexation, while also using them as zones for diplomatic negotiation.

40. (A) Conduct of inter-state relations and diplomacy.
Diplomacy and inter-state relations were sophisticated aspects of Mughal administration, involving the exchange of high-level embassies with foreign powers like the Safavid Empire. These interactions were crucial for negotiating territorial disputes, such as the control of strategic cities like Qandahar, and for establishing trade agreements. Such diplomatic missions allowed the Mughals to project their power internationally and maintain a balance of power through negotiation rather than relying solely on warfare.

41. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
Mughal inter-state relations were characterized by a complex mix of diplomacy, warfare, and strategic alliances. They used matrimonial ties to integrate Rajput states and engaged in persistent conflicts with the Safavids over territorial control. Simultaneously, they maintained diplomatic channels with Central Asian powers and navigated a volatile relationship with the Deccan Sultanates. These diverse strategies were aimed at expanding the empire's influence while securing its borders through both military strength and political negotiation.

42. (A) A constant struggle for supremacy and attempts at reconquest by Delhi.
As the central authority of the Delhi Sultanate weakened, several independent regional kingdoms emerged in areas like Bengal and Gujarat. The relationship between Delhi and these new states was frequently antagonistic, as the Sultans often viewed them as rebellious provinces and launched military campaigns to reassert control. This ongoing struggle for supremacy defined the political landscape of the later Sultanate period, leading to a fragmented and often unstable inter-state environment across India.

43. (D) Both dynasties completely ignored the North-Eastern frontier, leading to its loss.
Medieval Indian rulers recognized the importance of various frontiers, though they often prioritized the North-West due to its history of large-scale invasions. The Delhi Sultans built defensive fortifications, and the Mughals sought to control the mountain passes as their scientific frontier. While the North-East was geographically challenging, it was not entirely ignored; the Mughals, in particular, conducted several campaigns in Bengal and Assam to expand their territory and secure the eastern borders.

44. (A) 4, 2, 3, 1
Significant administrative and political events followed a clear chronological order from the Sultanate to the Maratha era. Alauddin Khilji's southern campaigns occurred first, expanding Sultanate influence. Babur's victory at Panipat established the Mughal Empire in the sixteenth century. Later, Shah Jahan consolidated power by annexing Ahmadnagar in the seventeenth century. Finally, Shivaji's coronation marked the formal rise of the Maratha kingdom, representing the latest major administrative development among these events.

45. (C) The draining of wealth from the Deccan, which financed the Sultanate's administration and military.
The military expeditions into the Deccan by the Delhi Sultanate were primarily driven by the desire to acquire the vast riches stored in southern kingdoms. These campaigns resulted in the collection of enormous amounts of gold, jewels, and tribute, which were transported back to Delhi. This significant influx of wealth provided the necessary financial resources to maintain the Sultanate's large standing army and support the expanding administrative needs of the central government.

46. (B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
Medieval rulers adopted distinct strategies to manage their borders and neighboring states. Balban focused on fortifying the North-West against Mongol threats, while Akbar pioneered a policy of diplomatic and matrimonial alliances with the Rajputs. Later, Aurangzeb pursued an aggressive policy of annexing the Deccan states of Bijapur and Golconda. Sher Shah Suri emphasized the strategic control of key forts like Rohtas to secure his power. Each approach reflected the specific challenges of their time.

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47. (A) Lifting water from wells for irrigation.
The Persian wheel, also known as the rahat, was a significant technological advancement in medieval Indian agriculture. This mechanical device utilized a series of buckets on a rotating wheel to lift water from deep wells, facilitating more efficient irrigation of crops. Its widespread adoption helped farmers expand the amount of cultivable land and improve crop yields, playing a crucial role in sustaining the agrarian economy and supporting the growing population of the time.

48. (B) The village economy was largely self-sufficient but was also integrated into the larger cash economy through land revenue payments.
Medieval villages functioned as largely self-contained economic units where local artisans and farmers fulfilled most community needs. However, they were never completely isolated from the wider world. The requirement to pay land revenue to the state, often in cash, compelled villagers to sell a portion of their surplus produce in nearby markets. This practice integrated the rural economy into a broader network of trade and encouraged the use of currency at the local level.

49. (B) Loans provided to peasants, especially during distress, for seeds, bullocks, or digging wells.
The state recognized the importance of agricultural stability and provided financial assistance to farmers through loans known as taccavi or sondhar. These funds were typically distributed during times of natural calamity or to encourage the cultivation of new land. By helping peasants purchase essential resources like seeds and oxen, the government aimed to ensure continuous agricultural production, which was vital for maintaining the steady flow of land revenue to the treasury.

50. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The lives of the peasantry in medieval India were often difficult due to the heavy financial demands imposed by the state and various intermediaries. Official revenue rates were frequently set quite high, leaving farmers with little surplus beyond their basic needs. Furthermore, local officials and landholders often extracted additional payments, further straining the rural economy. This combined pressure ensured that most peasants lived at a subsistence level despite their central role in the economy.

51. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The state utilized different financial mechanisms to support various social and economic groups. Revenue-free land grants, such as madad-i-ma'ash, were provided to religious scholars and charitable institutions as a form of permanent support. In contrast, agricultural loans like taccavi were temporary financial aids meant to help peasants recover from distress or improve their farms. Unlike the charitable grants, these loans were expected to be repaid to the state after the harvest.

52. (D) A stratified society comprising land-owning peasants, tenants, and landless laborers.
The medieval village was not a uniform community but rather a complex and stratified social structure. It included wealthy land-owning peasants who controlled the most productive fields and often held local administrative influence. Below them were tenant farmers who rented land, followed by a significant population of landless laborers who provided essential manual work. This internal hierarchy shaped the economic relationships and power dynamics within the village, influencing how resources and taxes were distributed.

53. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
Agricultural production in medieval India relied on a combination of traditional tools, diverse crop choices, and environmental management. Farmers used wooden ploughs and animal power, particularly oxen, for labor-intensive tasks. They cultivated a wide variety of both food grains and profitable cash crops. Additionally, irrigation was managed through a mix of private wells and large-scale state-sponsored canal systems, all of which worked together to support a robust and vital agrarian economy.

54. (B) The establishment of administrative headquarters and military cantonments.
Urbanization during the Sultanate and Mughal periods was largely driven by the needs of the imperial state. The creation of new administrative capitals and the stationing of large armies required a massive influx of officials, soldiers,

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universally accepted law governed the transfer of power. While Sultans sometimes nominated their heirs, the actual outcome frequently depended on military strength and the support of powerful nobility. This lack of a fixed rule meant that the death of a ruler often triggered violent struggles among claimants competing to consolidate political control.

9. (C) A highly centralized system that served as a model for the Mughals.
Sher Shah Suri established a remarkably efficient and centralized administrative framework during his brief reign. He organized the empire into smaller units and introduced standardized procedures for revenue collection and law enforcement. His emphasis on direct supervision and accountability significantly improved governance. These reforms were so successful that they were later adopted and further refined by the Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, to stabilize their empire.

10. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
Sher Shah Suri implemented a comprehensive suite of administrative reforms that touched every aspect of the state. He divided the empire into sarkars and parganas for better local control and introduced a standardized silver currency. Additionally, he established an extensive espionage system for surveillance and measurement-based land revenue assessment. Together, these measures strengthened the central authority, enhanced state income, and ensured a more orderly and secure society.

11. (D) The measurement of land and a schedule of rates (ray).
The core of Sher Shah's land revenue policy was the transition to a more scientific and equitable assessment method. He mandated the physical measurement of cultivated fields and established a schedule of rates based on the average produce of different types of land. This system aimed to ensure fair taxation for the peasantry while providing the state with a predictable and steady source of revenue.

12. (B) Cause: Introduction of a standardized currency. Effect: Facilitation of trade and commerce.
The introduction of a standardized currency by Sher Shah Suri had a profound and positive impact on the regional economy. By replacing irregular and debased coins with a uniform silver rupiya, he provided a reliable medium of exchange for merchants and traders. This reform reduced transaction costs, simplified accounting, and encouraged long-distance trade, thereby stimulating economic growth and integration across the various provinces of his empire.

13. (C) A military-bureaucratic system where an official's rank (mansab) determined their status, salary, and military obligations.
The Mansabdari system was the fundamental administrative framework of the Mughal Empire, organizing the entire nobility into a single graded hierarchy. Each official was assigned a specific rank, or mansab, which dictated their position at court, their financial compensation, and the number of armed troopers they were required to maintain. This system effectively integrated civil and military administration, ensuring that all high-ranking officials were active participants.

14. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Mansabdari system served as a unique and vital pillar of Mughal governance, effectively centralizing authority within a massive empire. By combining civil and military roles into one service, the state could ensure that its officials remained loyal and responsive to the emperor's commands. This structured hierarchy allowed the ruler to maintain strict control over the nobility while efficiently managing both administrative tasks and military defenses.

15. (A) A jagir was a piece of land assigned to a mansabdar in lieu of a cash salary.
In the Mughal administrative system, the Jagirdari system acted as the primary mechanism for compensating state officials. Rather than receiving cash from the central treasury, many mansabdars were granted the right to collect land revenue from specific territories known as jagirs. This arrangement allowed the state to maintain a large bureaucracy and military without the immediate need for vast amounts of liquid currency for payroll.

16. (A) 4, 2, 1, 3

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62. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
In the context of early modern trade, the term "factory" had a different meaning than it does today. Rather than being sites of mechanized manufacturing, these European establishments were fortified logistical hubs. They served as warehouses for storing goods like textiles and spices before shipment and provided secure residential quarters for the company's merchants and agents. These centers allowed European trading companies to manage their commercial operations and maintain a permanent presence along the Indian coastline.

63. (A) Royal workshops that produced and stored articles for the court and state departments.
The karkhanas were essential state institutions that functioned as centers of production and storage for the imperial court. These royal workshops employed skilled artisans to create a wide array of luxury goods, including fine textiles, weapons, and jewelry, exclusively for the use of the Sultan or Emperor. By centralizing the production of high-quality items, the state ensured a steady supply of prestigious goods needed for courtly rituals, diplomatic gifts, and the general needs of the bureaucracy.

64. (B) Synthetic plastic manufacturing
The industrial landscape of medieval India was defined by its reliance on natural materials and traditional craftsmanship. Industries such as carpet weaving, ivory carving, and the production of metalware and arms reached high levels of sophistication, catering to both domestic and international markets. Modern industrial processes and synthetic materials like plastic were entirely absent during this era. Instead, the economy focused on artisanal excellence and the processing of agricultural and mineral resources through manual labor.

65. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
Industry in medieval India was organized through traditional, skill-based methods rather than large-scale mechanization. Most production occurred within domestic settings or through established caste guilds that maintained high standards of craftsmanship. While royal karkhanas fulfilled the luxury needs of the elite, the broader market relied on specialized artisans using manual techniques. This system was highly effective at producing high-quality goods for global trade, even in the absence of the industrial machinery common in later centuries.

66. (A) Levying uniform and low customs duties (rahdari) and encouraging trade.
The Mughal state generally recognized the economic benefits of a flourishing commercial sector and implemented policies to facilitate trade. By maintaining a network of roads and keeping customs duties relatively low and consistent, the government encouraged the movement of goods between regions. This supportive environment allowed merchants to operate more effectively, ensuring that both essential commodities and luxury items could reach urban markets, while also providing the state with a steady source of indirect tax revenue.

67. (C) The lack of a standardized currency completely hampered internal trade.
Internal trade in medieval India was highly developed and involved the movement of bulk commodities across vast distances. Professional transporters like the Banjaras played a critical role in moving grain and salt between rural and urban areas. Contrary to the idea of economic chaos, the existence of a reliable and standardized currency, especially the silver rupiya, greatly facilitated these transactions. This monetary stability allowed merchants to conduct business with confidence, integrating the economies of various provinces.

68. (A) 2, 3, 1, 4
European maritime powers arrived in India in a specific chronological sequence, each seeking to establish a share in the profitable spice and textile trade. The Portuguese were the first to arrive in the late fifteenth century, followed by the Dutch and then the English in the early seventeenth century. The French were the last of the major European powers to establish their trading presence, arriving toward the end of the seventeenth century to compete for commercial influence.

69. (C) India had a favorable balance of trade, exporting high-value goods like textiles and spices for bullion.
During the Mughal era, India functioned as a major manufacturing hub that dominated

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and Europe. Each of these centers specialized in different goods, such as spices or textiles. In contrast, Hooghly was located on the eastern coast in the Bengal region, serving as the major outlet for trade from the Gangetic plains.

114. (B) 1, 2, and 4 only
The Mughal Mansabdari system was a comprehensive grading framework used to determine an official's rank, salary, and military responsibilities. Ranks were divided into Zat and Sawar, reflecting personal status and troop obligations, respectively. This non-hereditary service formed the essential backbone of both civil and military administration. While some officials received cash salaries, many were compensated through revenue assignments from land, ensuring that the nobility remained active participants in the state's governance and defense while dependent on the emperor.

115. (C) The state as a major consumer of luxury goods.
The establishment and operation of karkhanas highlight the significant role the medieval Indian state played in the economy as a producer and consumer. These royal workshops employed the finest artisans to manufacture high-quality goods, such as intricate silk carpets or fine weaponry, specifically for the imperial court. By directly sponsoring the production of luxury items, the state not only fulfilled its own prestigious needs but also supported specialized crafts that might not have flourished in the open market.

116. (D) The surplus produced by the agricultural sector.
Throughout the medieval period, the financial stability of every major Indian state rested primarily on the productivity of its rural areas. Land revenue, collected from the agricultural surplus produced by the peasantry, was the largest and most consistent source of state income. This revenue funded the massive costs of the military, the salaries of the nobility, and the construction of grand monuments. Consequently, the prosperity of the empire was inextricably linked to the health of the agrarian economy.

117. (A) 3, 1, 2, 4
The political and administrative history of medieval India unfolded through several landmark events. First, the Iqta system was formalized by Iltutmish in the early thirteenth century. This was followed by the establishment of the Bahamani Kingdom in the mid-fourteenth century. Later, Sher Shah Suri implemented his influential administrative reforms in the mid-sixteenth century. Finally, the annexation of Golconda by Aurangzeb in the late seventeenth century marked the expansion of Mughal power into the deep south of the subcontinent.

118. (B) Europeans had to bring large amounts of gold and silver to buy Indian goods like textiles and spices.
During the era of the Mughal Empire, India was a manufacturing powerhouse whose goods were in high demand across Europe. Because European nations produced few items that appealed to Indian markets, they were forced to pay for their purchases using precious metals. This led to a massive and continuous influx of gold and silver bullion into India in exchange for cotton textiles, silk, and spices. This trade pattern significantly enhanced India's wealth and solidified its dominant position in global commerce.

119. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Mughal currency system was renowned for its exceptional quality and sophistication, providing a stable foundation for the empire's vast economy. This successful monetary framework was built upon the earlier reforms of Sher Shah Suri, who introduced the silver rupiya and copper paisa. The Mughal emperors adopted and further refined these standardized units, creating a trimetallic system of high purity. This continuity in currency policy facilitated long-distance trade and ensured uniform financial transactions across the various provinces of India.

120. (A) Serving as the commander-in-chief of the provincial army.
The provincial Diwan in the Mughal administrative system held a vital financial and administrative role, independent of the military governor. His primary responsibilities included supervising the collection of land revenue, maintaining detailed accounts of provincial income and expenditure, and presiding over civil cases related to revenue matters. By reporting directly to the imperial treasury rather than the Subadar, the Diwan acted as a critical check

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77. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The state maintained its operations through a diverse range of revenue sources. Land revenue was the most significant contributor, supplemented by customs duties on expanding trade. In addition to these, the state collected Jizya from non-Muslim subjects during certain periods and claimed a share of the booty acquired during military conquests. This multifaceted financial base provided the resources necessary to fund the massive administrative and military apparatus of the Sultanate and Mughal empires.

78. (D) The maintenance of the army and the nobility.
The financial priorities of medieval Indian states were heavily focused on maintaining political stability and military power. A vast majority of state expenditure was directed toward the salaries of the nobility and the upkeep of a large, well-equipped standing army. This investment was essential for defending the borders, suppressing internal rebellions, and ensuring the continued collection of taxes. While other expenses existed, the security and loyalty of the elite and the military remained the primary costs of governance.

79. (A) The trimetallic currency system, based on silver (rupee), gold (mohur), and copper (dam), was a key feature.
The Mughal Empire developed one of the most sophisticated and stable currency systems in the early modern world. It was based on three distinct metals: gold for high-value transactions, silver for standard trade and revenue, and copper for daily small-scale purchases. This trimetallic system ensured that all levels of the economy had a reliable medium of exchange. The high metallic purity and standardized weight of these coins facilitated both domestic commerce and international trade with European and Asian partners.

80. (B) All coins were of the same shape, size, and weight, regardless of the metal.
The Mughal minting system was renowned for its high standards and decentralized yet controlled organization. Mints were established in major cities across the empire to ensure a steady supply of currency. While the state maintained strict quality control over the purity of the gold, silver, and copper used, the physical characteristics of the coins—such as their size and weight—varied significantly depending on the metal and denomination. This variety allowed for a flexible and highly functional monetary system.

81. (B) Excessive industrial pollution.
Famines in the medieval period were primarily the result of environmental challenges and the disruptions caused by human activity. The failure of seasonal rains was the most common natural cause, leading to widespread crop failure. This was often worsened by the effects of ongoing wars, which destroyed fields and blocked supply lines. Additionally, administrative failures in distributing relief and the hoarding of grain by merchants could turn a local shortage into a devastating catastrophe for the rural population.

82. (A) The oppressive burden of high land revenue demands.
Peasant uprisings during the Sultanate and Mughal periods were most frequently triggered by unbearable economic pressure. When the state or local landholders demanded an excessively high share of the agricultural produce, farmers were often left without enough food to survive. These high taxes, especially during times of poor harvests, created deep resentment. Consequently, many peasants chose to abandon their lands or take up arms in revolt against the perceived injustice of the revenue administration.

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83. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Currency evolution in medieval India involved several key rulers who standardized monetary units to stabilize the economy. Iltutmish introduced the silver tanka and copper jital during the early Sultanate. Later, Sher Shah Suri pioneered the silver rupiya, which became the standard for centuries. Akbar further refined this system by introducing the gold mohur and standardizing the copper dam. These reforms collectively established a reliable and sophisticated monetary framework that supported both state administration and commercial growth.

84. (D) Peasant uprisings with complex socio-religious and economic causes.
The revolts of the Satnamis and Jats during the late seventeenth century represented significant challenges to Mughal authority. These uprisings were rooted in the deepening agrarian crisis, characterized by high revenue

toward indigenous administrative models for the Maratha state.

99. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire recognized the vital importance of securing their borders, particularly in the turbulent North-West. They established a network of fortified posts, known as thanas, strategically located along major invasion routes. These garrisons provided a permanent military presence for surveillance and acted as essential staging areas for launching counter-offensives. By maintaining these outposts, the central governments could effectively monitor tribal movements and defend the heartland from external threats.

100. (D) A forward policy aimed at controlling strategic routes and subduing turbulent tribes.
The Mughal approach to the North-West frontier was characterized by a proactive and strategic "forward policy." They recognized that passive defense was insufficient to secure the empire's gateway. Instead, they sought to actively control vital mountain passes and major cities like Kabul and Qandahar. By combining military force to subdue local tribes with diplomatic negotiations, the Mughals aimed to create a secure buffer zone that protected the Indian heartland from Central Asian incursions and Persian influence.

101. (C) Muqti or Wali
In the provincial administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the terms Muqti or Wali were used to designate the governor of an iqta. These officials were appointed by the Sultan to manage distant territories, where they were responsible for maintaining a military contingent and ensuring the collection of land revenue. While they exercised significant local power, they were required to send the surplus revenue to the central treasury and remained subject to the Sultan's ultimate authority.

102. (B) Cause: Frequent transfer of jagirdars. Effect: Short-term exploitation of peasantry in the jagir by the assignee.
The Mughal policy of frequently transferring jagirdars was intended to prevent the nobility from becoming too powerful in any one region. However, this practice often had an unintended and negative effect on the local population. Since jagirdars knew they would only hold a territory for a short time, many focused on extracting as much revenue as possible during their brief tenure. This short-term outlook led to the over-exploitation of the peasantry and discouraged long-term agricultural investment.

103. (D) Taxes levied on territories not under direct Maratha rule.
Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were two distinct types of revenue collected by the Marathas from neighboring territories beyond their direct control. Chauth was typically a claim for one-fourth of the land revenue, demanded in exchange for protection from Maratha raids. Sardeshmukhi was an additional ten percent tax based on the Maratha king's claim as the hereditary headman. These taxes were essential for funding the Maratha military and expanding their influence throughout the subcontinent during the eighteenth century.

104. (A) He established a highly decentralized administration, giving full autonomy to his governors.
Sher Shah Suri is celebrated for creating a remarkably centralized and efficient administrative system during his short reign. He maintained strict control over his officials and implemented standardized military practices, such as the branding of horses and maintaining descriptive rolls of soldiers. His reforms extended to a comprehensive land revenue system and the construction of extensive road networks. These measures were designed to strengthen the central government's authority and ensure uniformity and security across the entire empire.

105. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Rajput states was far more complex than simple military conquest. Starting with Akbar, the Mughals utilized a sophisticated combination of warfare and diplomacy. They established matrimonial alliances and integrated prominent Rajput chiefs into the imperial nobility as high-ranking mansabdars. This inclusive policy allowed the Mughals to utilize Rajput military prowess to expand the empire while granting the Rajput rulers significant autonomy and status within the imperial administrative structure.

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whether a son or a high-ranking noble, through force of arms rather than by any fixed legal right.

92. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
Mughal provincial administration was designed as a miniature version of the central government to ensure consistent governance. Under the leadership of the Subadar, several key officials managed different departments. The Diwan oversaw revenue and finance, while the Bakhshi acted as the military paymaster. The Sadr managed religious and charitable matters, and the Kotwal maintained urban law and order. This collaborative structure ensured that all essential state functions were represented and balanced at the provincial level.

93. (C) The Vijayanagara Empire
The Nayankara system was a unique and defining administrative feature of the Vijayanagara Empire, used to manage its vast southern territories. Under this arrangement, the king granted land to military chiefs, known as Nayakas, in exchange for their loyalty and military service. These chiefs were responsible for maintaining a specified number of troops and providing financial contributions to the central government, effectively integrating military defense with land administration and revenue collection across the empire.

94. (D) The Maratha state adopted the Mansabdari and Jagirdari system in its entirety from the Mughals.
Shivaji established a highly original administrative system for the Maratha state, drawing inspiration from local traditions rather than simply copying the Mughals. He organized a central council of ministers known as the Asta Pradhan and implemented land revenue reforms that involved systematic surveying. While he utilized some regional practices, he consciously avoided the large-scale adoption of the Mughal Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems, preferring to pay many of his officials in cash to maintain greater central control.

95. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval Indian states utilized diverse administrative systems to manage their territories and armies. The Delhi Sultanate relied on the Iqta system for revenue assignments, while the Mughals later developed the sophisticated Mansabdari system for their nobility. The Maratha administration was uniquely characterized by the Asta Pradhan, a council of eight ministers. Meanwhile, the Vijayanagara Empire used the Nayankara system to delegate military and administrative authority to local chiefs, reflecting the different political needs of each dynasty.

96. (B) The ministers acted as an advisory body, with the final decision-making power resting with the king.
The effectiveness of the Asta Pradhan under Shivaji was rooted in its clear hierarchical structure. While the eight ministers were responsible for specific departments, they functioned as an advisory council rather than an independent decision-making body. Shivaji retained absolute authority and made all final policy decisions himself. This arrangement allowed the king to benefit from specialized expertise while ensuring that the central government remained unified and responsive to his personal leadership and strategic vision.

97. (B) The establishment of the 'Nayankara' system for local control.
The Bahamani administration was characterized by a centralized structure and provincial divisions known as tarafs, reflecting the influence of the Delhi Sultanate. A major feature of its history was the ongoing rivalry between the Deccani and Afaqi nobility at court. While the kingdom maintained a sophisticated central government with various ministerial departments, the Nayankara system was a specific administrative model used by its southern rival, the Vijayanagara Empire, and was not a part of the Bahamani system.

98. (B) 2, 4, 1, 3
Administrative systems in India evolved sequentially as different dynasties established their rule. The Iqta system was pioneered by the Delhi Sultanate in the thirteenth century. Later, in the mid-sixteenth century, Sher Shah Suri introduced refined provincial and revenue reforms. These were soon followed by Akbar's institutionalization of the Mansabdari system for the Mughal Empire. Finally, in the late seventeenth century, Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan council, representing a shift

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international markets with its exquisite textiles and spices. Because Indian goods were in high demand globally while India required fewer foreign manufactured items, the country maintained a consistently favorable balance of trade. This resulted in a steady influx of gold and silver bullion from Europe and other parts of Asia, making India one of the wealthiest regions in the world at the time.

70. (B) It gradually led to the subordination of the Indian economy to European colonial interests.
While initial European trade brought wealth through the purchase of Indian goods, it eventually altered the country's economic trajectory. Over time, the growing political and naval influence of European trading companies allowed them to dictate terms and monopolize certain markets. This process began the gradual transition where India's economic resources and production were increasingly diverted to serve the needs of foreign colonial powers, eventually leading to a significant loss of domestic economic autonomy.

71. (C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
India's coastlines were dotted with significant ports that connected various regions to global trade networks. Surat in Gujarat served as a primary gateway for trade with West Asia and the Red Sea. Masulipatnam on the Coromandel Coast was a vital hub for textile exports, while Calicut on the Malabar Coast remained famous for the spice trade. In the east, Hooghly became the main outlet for the rich products and resources flowing from the Gangetic plains.

72. (A) It was the main port for Haj pilgrims and trade with the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.
Surat occupied a unique and vital position in the Mughal economy as the empire's premier western port. Its importance stemmed from its role as the primary departure point for pilgrims traveling to Mecca and its status as a major center for international commerce. The city acted as a bridge between India and the lucrative markets of the Middle East, attracting merchants from across the globe and facilitating the exchange of Indian textiles for West Asian bullion.

73. (C) Transport and communication infrastructure.
The successful conduct of long-distance trade depended heavily on the availability of reliable transport and communication networks. The use of major rivers like the Ganges for inland transport and the development of coastal shipping allowed for the efficient movement of bulky goods like textiles. By investing in these infrastructures, the state and private merchants ensured that products could be moved safely and relatively quickly between distant production centers and major export hubs like Surat.

74. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Hundi system was a highly sophisticated financial innovation that revolutionized medieval Indian commerce. By serving as a bill of exchange, it allowed merchants to transfer large sums of money between cities without the physical risk of transporting heavy bags of coins. This credit-based system, managed by professional bankers, made long-distance trade significantly safer and more efficient, supporting the overall growth and integration of the national and international commercial networks.

75. (D) A credit instrument or bill of exchange issued by a sarraf (banker).
A Hundi was a fundamental financial document used by merchants and bankers across medieval India. Issued by professional sarrafs, it functioned as a written promise to pay a specific amount of money at a different location or time. This instrument allowed traders to manage their finances through credit, facilitating the purchase of goods in one region and the settlement of debts in another, thereby reducing the need for dangerous and cumbersome cash transfers.

76. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Medieval Indian commerce featured advanced risk management techniques, including indigenous forms of insurance for goods in transit. Merchants could protect their investments against losses from theft, shipwrecks, or other disasters by paying a premium to professional insurers. This insurance was often integrated with the Hundi system, with the cost either included in the bill of exchange or paid separately. These practices demonstrate the high level of sophistication and organization within the Indian financial sector.

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106. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Mughal Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems utilized specific terms to define an official's status and income. The Zat rank represented the personal status and salary of the noble, while the Sawar rank dictated the number of troopers they had to maintain. In the revenue system, Jama referred to the estimated revenue of a jagir recorded in official documents. In contrast, Hasil represented the actual amount of revenue that was successfully collected from the land during a given year.

107. (D) The Vijayanagara Empire
The Ayagar system was a distinctive and essential feature of village administration in the Vijayanagara Empire. It consisted of a body of twelve functionaries who managed all local affairs, from revenue collection to law enforcement. These officials were granted tax-free land in exchange for their services, ensuring that the village functioned as an autonomous and self-sufficient unit. This decentralized approach allowed the central government to maintain order and gather revenue without the need for constant direct intervention.

108. (B) The state was theoretically an Islamic state, and the Sultan's duty was to uphold the Sharia.
The Delhi Sultanate is often described as a theocratic state because its political framework was theoretically based on Islamic principles. The Sultan was expected to govern in accordance with the Sharia and often sought legitimacy through the recognition of the Caliph. While practical politics often required a degree of pragmatism, the state's official ideology was centered on upholding the faith and ensuring that the legal system remained aligned with Islamic traditions and religious scripture.

109. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The central administration of the Delhi Sultanate was organized into several specialized departments, each led by a high-ranking official. The Wazir managed the finance department, while the Ariz-i-Mumalik oversaw military affairs. Legal and religious matters were the responsibility of the Qazi-ul-Quzat, and the Barid-i-Mumalik headed the state's intelligence and news-gathering network. Together, these ministers formed the core of the government, assisting the Sultan in the systematic management of the empire's diverse administrative needs.

110. (D) Nayankara System - Bahamani Administration
Medieval Indian states developed specific administrative structures to manage their power. The Marathas used the Asta Pradhan for central governance, while the Mughals institutionalized the Mansabdari system for their nobility. The Delhi Sultanate relied on the Iqta system for land and revenue assignments. However, the Nayankara system was a unique administrative feature of the Vijayanagara Empire, involving land grants to military chiefs, and was not used by the rival Bahamani Sultanate in the Deccan.

111. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The persistent conflict between the Bahamani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire was largely driven by a desire for territorial and economic dominance in the Deccan. A primary focus of their warfare was the Raichur doab, the fertile region located between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers. Both states recognized the immense agricultural and strategic value of this territory. Consequently, the struggle to control this prosperous land remained a major source of tension and frequent military campaigns for centuries.

112. (B) A land grant for the maintenance of troops, similar to a jagir.
In the Maratha administrative system, the term Saranjam referred to a specific type of land grant assigned to military commanders. Similar to the Mughal jagir, these grants allowed the holder to collect revenue from a designated territory to cover the costs of maintaining their personal troops and performing official duties. While Shivaji initially discouraged such land assignments to ensure central control, the system became more widespread during the later Maratha period, particularly under the rule of the Peshwas.

113. (B) Hooghly
During the medieval period, India's maritime trade was concentrated in several key port cities along its extensive coastlines. On the western coast, ports like Surat, Calicut, and Goa served as vital links to trade with West Asia, Africa,

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demands and administrative exploitation. While the movements often adopted religious or community identities, their primary drivers were the economic grievances of the farming classes. These revolts highlighted the increasing strain on the empire's rural foundation and the growing disillusionment with centralized imperial rule among certain regional groups.

85. (C) Cause: A severe drought in the Deccan. Effect: A famine exacerbated by ongoing warfare and disruption of supply lines.
The occurrence of a famine was rarely due to a single event but rather a combination of unfortunate circumstances. For example, a natural disaster like a severe drought would drastically reduce food production. If this occurred during a time of war, the situation became far worse as military movements destroyed existing stores and disrupted the transport of grain from other regions. This synergy between natural failure and social disruption often led to widespread suffering and high mortality rates.

86. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
The financial administration of the Mughal Empire was built on several integrated components that ensured economic stability. It featured a detailed system for land revenue assessment, a network of mints for uniform currency, and an organized treasury for managing state funds. Additionally, private financial tools like Hundis facilitated credit and remittances, while the Jagirdari system provided an efficient method for compensating the nobility. Together, these elements created a robust framework for managing the vast resources of the empire.

87. (D) The discrepancy between the paper value and the real income of a jagir.
A critical flaw in the Jagirdari system was the growing gap between the expected revenue, known as jama, and the actual amount collected, called hasil. Mansabdars were often assigned jagirs based on idealized estimates that did not account for local conditions, crop failures, or administrative inefficiency. When the real income fell short of these paper values, officials struggled to maintain their required military contingents, leading to financial distress for the nobility and a weakening of the empire's overall military capacity.

88. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
To maintain absolute control over the empire, Mughal rulers implemented a policy of frequently transferring jagirdars from one territory to another. By preventing officials from staying in one region for too long, the state ensured they could not develop deep local connections or build a personal power base. This rotation kept the nobility dependent on the emperor's favor and prevented the emergence of hereditary regional fiefdoms that could potentially challenge the central authority of the throne.

89. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Sher Shah Suri's short reign left a lasting legacy due to his remarkable ability to implement practical and effective administrative reforms. His innovations in land revenue assessment, the creation of a standardized currency, and the construction of vital infrastructure like the Grand Trunk Road provided a stable foundation for governance. These systems were so well-designed that the subsequent Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, chose to adopt and refine them rather than replace them, ensuring long-term administrative continuity.

90. (A) A specific territory whose revenue was assigned to a noble in lieu of salary.
A jagir was a fundamental administrative unit in the Mughal Empire used to compensate the nobility for their services. Instead of receiving a direct cash payment, a mansabdar was given the right to collect land revenue from a designated area. This system allowed the state to maintain a massive bureaucracy and army while delegating the responsibility of revenue collection to the officials themselves. The jagirdar did not own the land but merely held the right to its income.

91. (D) The principle of 'might is right', or control through military power, was a recurrent feature.
The Delhi Sultanate never established a consistent or universally respected law of succession, leading to frequent political instability. While some rulers attempted to designate their heirs, the ultimate decision often rested on who could command the most military support. This meant that after the death of a Sultan, the throne was frequently seized by the most powerful claimant,

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on provincial power, ensuring that financial oversight remained firmly under the emperor's direct control.

121. (C) The laws of the state were expected to be in conformity with religious scripture.
The term theocracy is applied to the Delhi Sultanate because its governing ideology was rooted in Islamic principles. Theoretically, the Sultan was expected to rule according to the Sharia, and the state's legal and political systems were designed to uphold religious mandates. While practical governance often required pragmatic compromises with local customs and non-Muslim populations, the official framework remained centered on the idea that political authority should be exercised in alignment with divine law and religious doctrine.

122. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan consisted of eight ministers, each managing a specific and essential portfolio of the Maratha state. The Sumant handled foreign affairs and diplomacy, while the Pandit Rao was responsible for religious matters and charities. Financial administration and accounting were the duties of the Amatya. Meanwhile, the Waqia-Navis managed internal intelligence and the affairs of the royal household. This organized division of responsibilities ensured that every aspect of the central government was professionally and systematically managed.

123. (D) A shortage of land to be assigned as jagirs for the growing number of mansabdars.
The jagirdari crisis was a severe economic and administrative problem that plagued the later Mughal Empire. It was caused by a rapid increase in the number of mansabdars, all of whom required revenue-yielding land grants to fulfill their salary claims. However, the amount of available productive land, known as paibaqi, did not grow at the same rate. This imbalance created intense competition among the nobility, leading to political instability, administrative corruption, and the over-exploitation of the peasantry by desperate jagirdars.

124. (A) 1 and 2 only
Managing the frontiers was a central strategic concern for both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire. The Sultans focused on defensive measures, successfully repelling several Mongol invasions that threatened the North-West. Similarly, the Mughals prioritized the control of strategic locations like Kabul and Qandahar to protect the empire's main entry points. These policies required consistent military investment and diplomatic skill, highlighting the ongoing importance of the mountain passes for the security of any state centered in North India.

125. (C) A consequence of the increasing pressure on the agrarian economy and high revenue demands.
The frequent peasant uprisings during Aurangzeb's reign were primarily driven by the deepening economic crisis in the rural heartland. As the state's revenue demands became increasingly heavy to fund prolonged wars, the burden on the farming population grew unbearable. Combined with the exploitation by local officials and the instabilities of the jagirdari system, many peasants turned to armed resistance. These revolts, though often organized around community or religious identities, were fundamentally rooted in widespread agrarian distress and economic hardship.

126. (D) Proving an individual's military rank (mansab).
A hundi was a versatile and essential financial instrument in medieval Indian commerce, serving as a bill of exchange issued by professional bankers. It was widely used for remitting funds between distant cities, raising short-term credit, and settling large-scale trade transactions without the need for physical cash. While it was a central tool for merchants and the state finance departments, it had no connection to the personal administrative or military rank of a noble, which was determined by the emperor's decree.

127. (A) It was heavily modeled on the administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate.
The Bahamani Sultanate established its administrative framework by drawing extensively upon the practices of the Delhi Sultanate. Its founders were familiar with the central and provincial structures of the northern state, including the use of various ministerial departments and the iqta system for land management. By adapting these familiar Islamic administrative models to the Deccan,

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the Bahamani rulers were able to establish a stable and organized government that effectively managed the diverse territories and populations of the southern peninsula.

128. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Urbanization flourished during the Sultanate and Mughal periods as a direct result of imperial administrative and economic policies. The establishment of grand capitals and provincial headquarters concentrated enormous wealth and political power in specific locations. This environment attracted a diverse population of artisans, merchants, and service providers who catered to the needs of the court and the military. Consequently, cities grew not only as political centers but also as hubs of craft production and vibrant commercial exchange.

129. (B) Maintenance of law and order and command of troops.
Within the Mughal administrative hierarchy, the Faujdar served as a critical official at the district or sarkar level. His primary responsibility was to maintain law and order, suppress local rebellions, and ensure that the imperial authority was respected. To achieve this, he commanded a body of troops and worked closely with other local officials to provide security for the population and merchants. His role was essentially a military and police function, ensuring stability within his specific jurisdiction.

130. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Vijayanagara Empire featured a powerful, centralized monarchy where the king was the ultimate source of all authority. He personally oversaw the military, the judicial system, and the state administration, ensuring that his power remained absolute. While the throne was traditionally hereditary, the empire's history was occasionally marked by instances of usurpation, where powerful military leaders or ministers seized control to maintain stability. This combination of centralized rule and periodic political shifts defined the empire's internal power dynamics for centuries.

131. (A) 1, 2, and 4 only
The medieval Indian economy was characterized by a vibrant mix of agricultural and industrial activities. Cotton textiles were a premier export, while the hundi system provided the necessary financial infrastructure for long-distance trade. To ensure agricultural stability, the state frequently provided taccavi loans to peasants for seeds and equipment. While land revenue remained the primary source of state income, these diverse economic elements worked together to create a sophisticated and integrated system of production, finance, and commercial exchange.

132. (D) An appointed council of ministers with advisory functions.
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan was a structured administrative body comprising eight ministers, each assigned a specific portfolio such as finance, foreign affairs, or military leadership. Unlike hereditary feudal lords, these ministers were personally appointed by the king based on their competence. They functioned primarily as an advisory council, providing expert guidance on various aspects of governance while the final decision-making power remained with the sovereign. This system ensured that the Maratha state was managed with professional efficiency and centralized control.

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133. (C) Watan jagirs were hereditary landholdings of zamindars, while tankha jagirs were transferable assignments in lieu of salary.
The Mughal administration utilized different types of jagirs to manage its nobility and integrate local rulers. A tankha jagir was a standard revenue assignment given in exchange for official service and was subject to frequent transfers to prevent local entrenchment. In contrast, a watan jagir was typically granted to Rajput chiefs or other hereditary landholders in their own ancestral territories. These grants were hereditary and non-transferable, allowing local leaders to retain their traditional authority while remaining loyal to the emperor.

134. (B) Nayaka - Village Headman (Mughal)
Medieval administrations featured specialized officials with clearly defined roles. In the Mughal Empire, the Subadar led a province, while the village headman was typically known as the Muqaddam or Chaudhuri. The Maratha Amatya managed state finances, and the Sultanate Muqti governed a revenue assignment called an iqta. The term Nayaka specifically referred to military

chiefs who held land in the Vijayanagara Empire; it was not used for village officials within the Mughal administrative framework.

135. (D) It was the primary invasion route into India and a key artery for overland trade.
The North-West frontier was of supreme strategic importance to every major Indian power because it contained the narrow mountain passes through which all land-based invasions and trade caravans entered the subcontinent. Controlling this region allowed the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals to defend their empires from Central Asian threats while securing the lucrative overland trade routes with Persia. Consequently, maintaining a strong military presence and diplomatic influence in the North-West was fundamental to both imperial security and economic prosperity.

136. (A) The potential for exploitation of the peasantry by local officials.
While the central government established rules for revenue collection, the actual practice on the ground could be subject to abuse by local officials. Because these officers often held significant power over the rural population, they could engage in coercive practices such as forcing peasants to sell their crops at unfair prices. This potential for exploitation highlights the challenges the state faced in ensuring that its administrative systems functioned fairly and that the peasantry was protected from the personal interests of corrupt intermediaries.

137. (C) Production was organized in large, mechanized factories.
Industries in medieval India were highly developed but relied on traditional, non-mechanized methods of production. Cotton textiles were manufactured by millions of specialized artisans working in their homes or small cottage units, while royal karkhanas produced luxury goods for the elite through skilled manual labor. Handicrafts like metalwork reached high levels of sophistication. Large-scale steam-powered factories did not exist during this period; instead, the economy flourished through artisanal excellence and the high quality of hand-made goods.

138. (A) To head the state news and intelligence agency.
The Barid-i-Mumalik served as a crucial official in the Delhi Sultanate's central administration, responsible for managing the empire's sophisticated news and intelligence network. This department oversaw a system of local agents and messengers who provided regular reports on the activities of provincial governors, the state of the frontiers, and general public opinion. By maintaining this constant flow of information, the Sultan could monitor potential threats, ensure official loyalty, and make informed decisions regarding the governance and security of his vast territories.

139. (A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
Medieval administrations utilized various officials to manage land and revenue across different periods and regions. A Jagirdar in the Mughal Empire held a transferable revenue assignment, while a Zamindar was a hereditary local landholder with revenue collection duties. In the earlier Sultanate period, a Muqti was the holder of an iqta, or revenue assignment. Meanwhile, in the southern Vijayanagara Empire, a Nayaka was a military chief who managed specific territories in exchange for providing troops and financial support.

140. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The lack of a clear and universally accepted law of succession was a recurring source of political instability in the Delhi Sultanate. Without a rule like primogeniture to dictate the transfer of power, the death of a Sultan often triggered violent struggles among his sons and ambitious nobles. These wars of succession weakened the central authority, depleted the state's resources, and often led to the rise of new dynasties as military strength became the final decider of who would rule.

141. (C) Gold, Silver, Copper
The Mughal Empire maintained a sophisticated trimetallic currency system that supported all levels of economic activity. The gold mohur was used for high-value transactions and as a store of wealth, while the silver rupiya served as the standard unit for trade and the payment of land revenue. For daily small-scale purchases, the copper dam was widely circulated. This system, characterized by high metallic purity

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and the peasantry. His methods were so effective that they were later adopted and perfected by the Mughal emperor Akbar, forming the basis for the agrarian administration that sustained the empire for centuries.

170. (A) Hooghly
During the Mughal era, Hooghly in Bengal served as the most vital port for the commerce of North India. Located at the mouth of the Ganges, it acted as a natural gateway for the diverse products and rich resources flowing from the vast Gangetic valley. The port facilitated the export of high-quality textiles, rice, and saltpetre to international markets while receiving bullion and other imported goods. Its strategic location made it an essential hub for both domestic trade and the operations of European trading companies.

171. (D) The use of currency was completely unknown at the village level.
The medieval village was a largely self-sufficient economic unit that relied on local artisans and a shared agrarian base. However, it was never entirely separated from the broader market or the use of money. The state's requirement that land revenue be paid in cash forced farmers to sell their surplus produce in nearby towns. This commercial interaction ensured that standardized coins were present even in rural areas, integrating the village economy into the wider monetary system and facilitating trade beyond simple barter.

172. (B) A fortified trading station, office, and warehouse.
In the seventeenth century, the term "factory" referred to the specialized establishments created by European trading companies along the Indian coastline. These were not sites of manufacturing but rather fortified logistical centers. They served as secure warehouses for storing commodities like textiles and spices before export and provided offices and living quarters for the company's merchants and agents. These centers allowed European powers to manage their commercial interests and maintain a permanent presence while interacting with the Mughal administration and local merchant networks.

173. (C) 1 & 2 (Province) → 3 (District/Sarkar) → 4 (City/Town)
The Mughal Empire maintained a detailed administrative hierarchy to ensure effective governance at all levels. At the provincial level, the Subadar and Diwan managed the overall political and financial affairs of the suba. The district, or sarkar, was overseen by the Faujdar, who was responsible for local law and order and military command. Within urban centers, the Kotwal served as the chief police officer. This structured descending order ensured that the emperor's authority was systematically extended from the capital down to the cities and rural districts.

174. (D) The state's monopoly over minting and the maintenance of high metallic purity.
The exceptional quality and reputation of Mughal coinage were the result of strict state control and standardization. The Mughal emperors maintained a monopoly over the minting process, ensuring that coins were produced with a high level of metallic purity and consistent weight. By establishing a network of well-regulated mints across the empire, the state provided a reliable and trusted medium of exchange for both local trade and international commerce. This monetary stability was a central pillar of the empire's economic prosperity and administrative efficiency.

175. (A) Peasant revolts
The Jat and Satnami uprisings during the reign of Aurangzeb are prominent examples of peasant resistance to imperial authority. These revolts were rooted in the deepening agrarian crisis, characterized by heavy revenue demands and the perceived exploitation by administrative officials. While the movements often used community or religious identities to organize themselves, their primary motivations were economic grievances within the farming classes. These uprisings reflected the increasing strain on the Mughal Empire's rural foundations and the growing dissatisfaction among regional agrarian communities.

176. (B) Income tax on the salaries of nobles
The Mughal state derived its income from several major sources, primarily centered on the agrarian economy and trade. Land revenue was the most

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regional level, ensuring that imperial policies were implemented across the diverse territories.

149. (C) Sultan styled himself as a deputy or shadow of God on earth.
The theocentric nature of the Delhi Sultanate was reflected in how the rulers framed their political authority. Sultans often adopted titles that positioned them as the deputy or shadow of God on earth, signifying that they ruled with divine sanction. This ideology aimed to elevate the Sultan's status above all other mortals and provide a religious justification for his absolute power. While the state was managed through secular bureaucracy, its ultimate legitimacy was rooted in the idea of upholding a divine order.

150. (B) 3, 2, 1, 4
The Mughal Empire utilized a clearly defined hierarchical structure to manage its vast territories. The largest administrative unit was the suba, or province, which was governed by a Subadar. Each suba was further divided into sarkars, or districts. Below the sarkar was the pargana, which consisted of a group of villages. The smallest unit was the individual village, or mauza. This organized descending order allowed for systematic revenue collection and the efficient implementation of imperial laws from the capital down to the local level.

151. (D) The head of the finance department, effectively the prime minister.
The Wazir was the most important official in the central administration of the Delhi Sultanate, serving as the head of the finance department, known as the Diwan-i-Wizarat. His primary responsibilities included overseeing the collection of revenue, managing the state's expenditure, and advising the Sultan on all administrative matters. Because of his control over the treasury and his broad supervisory powers, the Wazir functioned effectively as the prime minister, playing a crucial role in the stability and governance of the entire empire.

152. (A) Jagirdars were frequently transferred, and had no proprietary rights, only the right to collect revenue.
While similar to European feudalism, the Mughal Jagirdari system had unique features that ensured the central government's supremacy. Unlike feudal lords who often held hereditary lands, jagirdars did not own the land they managed. They were merely given the right to collect its revenue as their salary. Crucially, they were frequently transferred between different jagirs to prevent them from building local power bases. This administrative flexibility ensured that the nobility remained a mobile service class dependent on the emperor's favor rather than independent landed aristocrats.

153. (C) The Mughal emperor or his provincial governor.
During the seventeenth century, European trading companies seeking to establish "factories" or trading posts in India had to navigate the political structure of the Mughal Empire. Such permissions required formal negotiations with the central imperial court or the relevant provincial governor. These authorities granted trade licenses and dictated the terms of settlement and customs duties. This process demonstrates that the Mughal state maintained significant control over its borders and regulated international commerce through a centralized administrative and diplomatic framework.

154. (A) Both B and C are correct.
The Mansabdari and Jagirdari systems were two interconnected pillars of Mughal administration. The Mansabdari system organized the nobility into a graded hierarchy, while the Jagirdari system provided the mechanism for their compensation. Most mansabdars were not paid in cash but were instead assigned the revenue rights of specific lands, known as jagirs, to fulfill their salary claims. This integration allowed the state to maintain a massive military and bureaucratic service by delegating the complex task of revenue collection directly to its high-ranking officials.

155. (D) The posts in the council were strictly hereditary and permanent.
Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan as a council of eight ministers chosen for their individual merit and loyalty. During his reign, these positions were not hereditary; the king retained the power to appoint and dismiss ministers at his discretion. This ensured that the administration remained efficient and responsive to his leadership. It was only after Shivaji's time, particularly under the later rule of the Peshwas, that many of these

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and standardized weights, provided the stability necessary for both domestic commerce and international trade with foreign partners.

142. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The Vijayanagara state was a powerful and centralized monarchy that effectively combined military and local administration. It relied on the Nayankara system to manage its territories through military chiefs and the Ayagar system to ensure that village life remained orderly and self-regulating. The empire was also defined by its prolonged rivalry with the Bahamani Sultanate to the north. These integrated administrative features and strategic challenges allowed Vijayanagara to maintain its dominance over South India for several centuries.

143. (A) Fatehpur Sikri (after its abandonment as capital)
During the medieval period, trade centers flourished where there was a concentration of political power or access to major transport routes. Cities like Agra, Surat, and Masulipatnam remained significant hubs of commerce throughout the Mughal era due to their roles in administration and international trade. In contrast, while Fatehpur Sikri was once a grand imperial capital, its importance rapidly declined after it was abandoned by Akbar. Without the patronage of the court, the city ceased to be a major center of economic activity.

144. (B) Cabinet of Ministers
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan was a sophisticated administrative body that closely resembled a modern cabinet of ministers. It consisted of eight officials, each responsible for a specific portfolio such as finance, defense, or foreign affairs. These ministers were personally appointed by the king based on their skills and worked together to advise him on state policies. This organized division of labor ensured that the Maratha government was managed systematically, with clear lines of responsibility for each major department of state.

145. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The Mughal Mansabdari system was a comprehensive administrative framework that integrated both civil and military functions into a single graded hierarchy. While every mansabdar held a military rank and was required to maintain troops, many also served in high-level civilian roles such as provincial governors or revenue officials. This system ensured that the entire nobility was part of a unified bureaucracy, allowing the emperor to maintain direct control over both the military strength and the civil administration of the empire.

146. (A) Climatic factors like drought, combined with warfare and administrative disruption.
Famines in medieval India were rarely caused by a single factor but were typically the result of natural disasters exacerbated by human activity. A failure of the monsoon rains leading to severe drought was often the primary trigger for crop failure. However, the severity of the crisis was frequently worsened by ongoing wars, which destroyed crops and blocked food supply lines. Administrative failures in providing timely relief also contributed to high mortality rates, turning localized shortages into widespread regional catastrophes.

147. (C) It was a decentralized industry, with spinning done by women at home and weaving by artisans in their cottages.
The production of cotton textiles, India's premier industry during the medieval period, was highly decentralized and rooted in the domestic economy. Millions of specialized artisans across the country worked within their homes, with tasks often divided by gender and skill; for instance, spinning was commonly done by women, while weaving was the work of skilled craftsmen. This cottage-based system allowed for massive production levels and exceptional quality, enabling Indian textiles to dominate global markets for centuries without the need for centralized factories.

148. (D) A sub-division of a province (Suba).
In the administrative hierarchy of the Mughal Empire and the state of Sher Shah Suri, the term sarkar referred to a key territorial division. A province, or suba, was divided into several sarkars, which were further subdivided into parganas. Each sarkar was managed by specific officials responsible for revenue collection and the maintenance of law and order. This systematic organization allowed the central government to maintain an effective and visible presence at the

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and indigenous forms of insurance to mitigate the risks of long-distance trade. This robust financial and commercial infrastructure allowed the merchant class to thrive and maintain India's dominant position in global trade.

163. (C) Acting as the paymaster and inspector-general of the provincial army.
In the Mughal provincial administration, the Bakhshi held a vital military and administrative role. His primary responsibilities were to act as the paymaster for the provincial troops and to serve as the inspector-general. He was tasked with checking the descriptive rolls of soldiers and the branding of horses to prevent fraud and ensure that the military contingents maintained by mansabdars were of the required quality. By reporting these details to the central government, the Bakhshi ensured that the empire's military strength remained reliable.

164. (B) 2, 3, and 4 only
The Mughal Empire never established a fixed rule of succession, such as primogeniture, leading to periodic political crises. Instead, the death of an emperor often triggered violent and bloody wars of succession among his sons, with the nobility playing a significant role as king-makers. In the earlier years of the dynasty, the concept of coparcenary—where the empire was divided among the ruler's sons—was also sometimes considered. This lack of a clear, peaceful transfer of power meant that military strength and political maneuvering remained the final deciders of the throne.

165. (C) Finance
The Diwan-i-Wizarat was one of the most critical departments in the central administration of the Delhi Sultanate. Headed by the Wazir, this office was responsible for all financial matters, including the assessment and collection of land revenue, the management of state expenditure, and the general supervision of the treasury. Because every other department depended on the allocation of funds, the Wazir exercised broad influence over the entire government, ensuring that the Sultanate had the financial resources needed for its military and administrative operations.

166. (B) Zat and Sawar
The Mughal Mansabdari system utilized a dual ranking structure to define an official's position and responsibilities. The Zat rank represented the individual's personal status in the imperial hierarchy and determined their salary. The Sawar rank indicated the number of cavalrymen and horses the official was required to maintain for the state's service. Together, these two numbers provided a precise measure of a noble's importance and their contribution to the empire's military and administrative strength, ensuring a structured and predictable bureaucracy.

167. (D) The growing power and hereditary nature of the Peshwa's office.
After the reign of Shivaji, the administrative structure of the Maratha state underwent significant changes. While the Asta Pradhan continued to exist, the office of the Peshwa, or prime minister, rapidly rose to dominance. Over time, the position became hereditary and increasingly concentrated political and military power in the hands of the Peshwa family. This shift transformed the Maratha state into a more decentralized confederacy where the Peshwa acted as the de facto head of the government, coordinating the actions of powerful regional Maratha chiefs.

168. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The history of the Deccan during the medieval period was defined by the long-standing and intense rivalry between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahamani Sultanate. Far from being at peace, the two states were frequently engaged in military conflict over several decades. Their struggle focused on controlling the fertile and strategically important regions of the Raichur doab and the Krishna-Godavari delta. These areas were highly prized for their immense agricultural wealth, making them the primary prizes in a near-constant struggle for regional supremacy.

169. (C) Land revenue administration.
Sher Shah Suri's most influential and enduring legacy was his comprehensive reform of the land revenue system. He introduced the systematic measurement of land and established revenue rates based on the actual productivity of the soil. This approach provided a fair and predictable taxation system that benefitted both the state

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high-ranking administrative offices began to pass from father to son within specific families.

156. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
The Bahamani administration was defined by its centralized structure and its division into provinces known as tarafs. Heavily influenced by the practices of the Delhi Sultanate, the state maintained a sophisticated bureaucracy. A notable internal challenge was the persistent rivalry between the local Deccani and foreign Afaqi nobility. Additionally, the kingdom moved its capital from Gulbarga to Bidar for strategic and political reasons. While organized, its system did not include the Asta Pradhan, which was a specific feature of the later Maratha administration.

157. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The Mughal Empire actively managed its borders through a mix of military force and strategic diplomacy. Under Akbar, matrimonial and political alliances were used to secure the North-West frontier and integrate local chiefs. However, while the Mughals were highly successful in the North-West, their policy toward the North-Eastern frontier was less systematic. The difficult terrain and the persistent resistance of regional powers like the Ahoms prevented the Mughals from establishing the same level of enduring and stable control they achieved on their western borders.

158. (D) Promote the extension and improvement of cultivation.
The primary goal of providing taccavi loans was to ensure the continued productivity and growth of the agrarian economy. The state recognized that the prosperity of the empire depended on the steady flow of land revenue, which required a stable farming population. By offering low-interest loans for seeds, oxen, and irrigation equipment, the government helped peasants recover from natural disasters and encouraged the cultivation of new or fallow lands. This supportive policy aimed to maximize agricultural output for the benefit of both the farmer and the state treasury.

159. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval Indian states were defined by their specific administrative officials. In the Mughal system, the Faujdar was a key district-level officer responsible for law and order. The Maratha state utilized the Sumant as its foreign minister. During the Delhi Sultanate, the Muqti governed a revenue assignment known as an iqta. In the southern Vijayanagara Empire, the Nayaka served as a military chief holding land in exchange for providing troops. These distinct roles reflected the varied political and military needs of each respective dynasty.

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160. (B) The migration of artisans, merchants, soldiers, and officials to the new urban center.
The creation of a new imperial capital like Delhi or Fatehpur Sikri triggered a significant demographic shift within the empire. The concentration of political power and the arrival of the royal court necessitated a vast support system. Thousands of soldiers, officials, and their families moved to the new city, followed by artisans, merchants, and laborers seeking economic opportunities. This rapid influx of people transformed small settlements into vibrant urban hubs, creating a diverse population that catered to the needs of the central government and the elite.

161. (B) Steel manufacturing.
The medieval Indian economy featured several prominent agro-based industries that processed agricultural raw materials into valuable trade goods. Sugar and jaggery production, oil pressing from various seeds, and indigo dyeing were widespread activities that supported both local consumption and international trade. While metalwork and arms production were highly developed crafts, large-scale steel manufacturing in a modern sense did not exist. Instead, the industrial sector was dominated by the processing of agricultural products and the traditional skill-based creation of high-quality handicrafts.

162. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Indian merchant class during the Mughal period was exceptionally prosperous and possessed a high degree of organizational sophistication. Particularly in major ports like Surat, these merchants controlled extensive networks that spanned both inland markets and overseas destinations. They utilized advanced financial tools, such as the hundi system for credit

significant contributor, supplemented by customs duties on expanding international commerce and, during certain periods, the Jizya tax. While the state maintained a sophisticated financial system, it did not utilize a modern income tax on the personal salaries of its officials. Instead, nobles were often compensated through land revenue assignments, and the state reclaimed their property upon their death through the system of escheat.

177. (B) The Iqta system
The Nayankara system of the Vijayanagara Empire and the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate shared a common structural purpose. Both systems involved the granting of revenue-yielding territories to military officials in exchange for their loyalty and service. These officials were responsible for maintaining a specified number of troops and providing financial or administrative support to the central government. By delegating revenue collection and military management to these regional chiefs, both states were able to maintain large armed forces across their respective empires.

178. (B) 1, 2 and 4 only
The Jagirdari system was a central mechanism of Mughal administration where officials were compensated with revenue assignments from specific lands. To prevent these nobles from becoming independent local rulers, the jagirs were subject to frequent transfers. Toward the end of the Mughal era, the system faced a severe crisis due to a shortage of available productive land for the growing number of mansabdars. While jagirdars collected revenue, their administrative and judicial authority within their assignments was strictly limited and overseen by other imperial officials.

179. (C) Hundi
A merchant in medieval India would rely on the hundi system to manage financial transactions across long distances without the danger of carrying physical currency. Issued by professional sarrafs, a hundi functioned as a bill of exchange or credit instrument. By purchasing a hundi in one city, a trader could send it to an agent in another region, who could then redeem it for cash. This sophisticated financial tool made trade safer, faster, and more efficient, supporting the overall commercial integration of the Mughal Empire.

180. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Sher Shah Suri is highly regarded by historians for establishing a centralized and exceptionally efficient administrative system during his short reign. He organized the empire into clear divisions, such as sarkars and parganas, and implemented significant reforms in the currency and land revenue sectors. Additionally, his establishment of a strong intelligence network ensured official accountability and security. These systematic changes provided such a stable foundation for governance that they were later adopted and further refined by the Mughal administration.

181. (C) The Sultanate was theoretically an Islamic state, while the Maratha state drew inspiration from indigenous traditions and was founded to establish 'Hindavi Swarajya'.
The primary difference between the Delhi Sultanate and the Maratha state lay in their underlying ideological foundations. The Sultanate was theoretically an Islamic state that sought to implement the Sharia and often looked to the Caliphate for legitimacy. In contrast, the Maratha state under Shivaji was an indigenous movement aimed at establishing self-rule, or Hindavi Swarajya. While both states were highly organized, the Marathas drew upon local traditions and cultural values to build an administrative system that resonated with the native population.

182. (B) The village headman (Muqaddam or Chaudhuri) and the village accountant (Patwari) were key officials in rural administration.
Local administration in the Mughal Empire relied on a blend of central oversight and traditional village roles. While officials like the Faujdar managed security at the district level, the actual day-to-day management of village life remained in the hands of hereditary local functionaries. The Muqaddam or Chaudhuri served as the village headman, responsible for revenue collection and order, while the Patwari maintained the essential agricultural and land records. This structure allowed the empire to

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gather resources and maintain stability within thousands of rural communities.

183. (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
The administrative systems of the Deccan states were diverse and reflected their specific origins. The Vijayanagara Empire utilized the Nayankara and Ayagar systems to manage military and local affairs. In the Maratha state, Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan as a central advisory council. The Bahamani kingdom was organized into provinces known as tarafs and was largely influenced by the practices of the Delhi Sultanate. While these states competed for regional dominance, each developed its own distinct administrative framework to manage its power and resources.

184. (A) Military Affairs
The Diwan-i-Arz was one of the most important central departments in the Delhi Sultanate, responsible for managing the state's military affairs. This department was tasked with the recruitment of soldiers, the maintenance of military records, and the regular inspection of the troops and cavalry. By ensuring that the army was well-equipped and loyal, the Diwan-i-Arz played a vital role in defending the Sultanate from external threats, such as Mongol invasions, and in maintaining internal stability through the effective use of force.

185. (C) An increase in the number of nobles (mansabdars) needing jagirs. Effect: A shortage of productive land (paibaqi) to assign as jagirs.
The jagirdari crisis was a structural failure that weakened the late Mughal Empire. It resulted from a significant increase in the size of the nobility, as more mansabdars were appointed to support imperial expansion. However, the amount of available land whose revenue could be assigned—known as paibaqi—remained limited. This imbalance meant that many officials had to wait long periods for assignments or received unproductive land, leading to financial hardship for the nobility, corruption in the administration, and increased exploitation of the peasantry.

186. (A) A jagir assigned in a mansabdar's home region, which was often hereditary and non-transferable.
A watan jagir was a specialized type of revenue assignment within the Mughal administrative system. Unlike standard jagirs, which were subject to frequent transfers, a watan jagir was usually granted to hereditary local rulers, such as Rajput chiefs, in their own ancestral territories. These assignments were hereditary and non-transferable, allowing the local elite to retain their traditional authority and income. This policy served as a vital diplomatic tool for integrating local powers into the Mughal imperial structure while ensuring their continued loyalty.

187. (D) Heavy machinery
During the Mughal era, India was a dominant player in global trade, exporting a wide variety of high-quality manufactured and agricultural goods. Cotton textiles were the premier export, along with silk, spices, and indigo dye. These products were in high demand across Asia and Europe. However, the period was characterized by traditional artisanal production rather than modern industrialization. Consequently, heavy machinery was not a component of India's trade; instead, the country's wealth was built on the exceptional quality of its hand-made crafts and natural resources.

188. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The Delhi Sultans recognized that the North-West frontier was the most vulnerable entry point into the Indian subcontinent. To address this threat, they maintained a large standing army and built a series of formidable forts in the border regions. This policy was entirely defensive, aimed at preventing devastating Mongol invasions and securing the heartland of the Sultanate. The strategic focus remained on consolidating and protecting their Indian territories rather than pursuing ambitious military conquests beyond the subcontinent or in distant regions like Europe.

189. (C) Centralization, standardization, and public welfare.
Sher Shah Suri's administrative reforms were characterized by a strong emphasis on creating a unified and efficient state. He centralized political power and standardized essential systems such as currency and land revenue assessment. Beyond mere administration, his policies also focused on public welfare, including the construction of extensive road networks and sarais for the

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convenience of travelers and merchants. These measures improved security, encouraged commerce, and provided a remarkably stable and well-organized framework that significantly influenced subsequent Mughal governance.

190. (D) Provincial governors or military chiefs who held land in return for service.
In the Vijayanagara Empire, the Nayakas were influential military chiefs who played a central role in provincial administration. They were granted specific territories, known as nayakaras, by the king. In exchange for these land assignments, the Nayakas were required to maintain a designated number of armed troops for the empire's defense and provide regular financial contributions to the central treasury. This system allowed the state to maintain a massive military presence while delegating local governance and revenue collection to these powerful regional leaders.

191. (A) He was the commander of the provincial army.
The Kotwal was a vital municipal official in the Mughal Empire, responsible for the internal security and administration of towns and cities. His duties included maintaining law and order, regulating markets, and keeping a detailed register of residents to prevent crime. He served as the chief police officer of the urban area rather than a high-ranking military commander. By ensuring that cities remained stable and orderly, the Kotwal facilitated commerce and provided a visible representation of imperial authority within the empire's urban centers.

192. (B) To manage religious grants and charities.
The Pandit Rao was one of the eight ministers in Shivaji's Asta Pradhan, responsible for overseeing the religious and social affairs of the Maratha state. His duties included managing state-sponsored charities, distributing religious grants, and advising the king on matters of dharma and social conduct. By including such a position in the central council, the administration ensured that the state's support for religious institutions was managed systematically and that spiritual and ethical considerations were represented in the highest levels of government.

193. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
The economic system of the Sultanate and Mughal periods was highly sophisticated and multifaceted. It was primarily an agrarian economy where land revenue funded the state, but it also featured a vibrant handicraft sector, particularly in textiles. Extensive internal and international trade networks were supported by advanced financial instruments like hundis and a reliable trimetallic currency system. These various components worked together to create a wealthy and integrated economy that maintained India's position as a global center of production and commerce.

194. (A) Absence of a well-defined and peaceful law of succession.
One of the most significant weaknesses of the Delhi Sultanate was the lack of a clear and universally accepted law of succession. This ambiguity frequently led to violent power struggles among the sons of a deceased Sultan or ambitious military leaders. These wars of succession caused political instability, depleted the empire's resources, and often weakened the central authority against both internal rebellions and external threats. Without a peaceful method for transferring power, military might remained the ultimate factor in determining the next ruler.

195. (C) To prevent fraud and ensure that the troopers and horses presented for muster were of the required quality.
Rulers like Alauddin Khilji and the Mughal emperors implemented strict military regulations to maintain the effectiveness of their armies. The branding of horses, known as dagh, and the maintenance of descriptive rolls for soldiers, called chehra, were designed to prevent corruption within the military-bureaucratic system. These measures ensured that officials did not cheat the state by presenting sub-standard equipment or fewer soldiers than they were paid to maintain. This accountability was essential for ensuring that the empire had a reliable and well-trained fighting force.

196. (D) While God was the symbolic head, the Sultan wielded practical political power.
The term theocentric is used by historians to describe the Sultanate because, while the state's ideology was rooted in the idea of divine sovereignty, the Sultan functioned as the practical

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and absolute head of the government. The ruler often styled himself as the representative or deputy of God to bolster his earthly legitimacy. While Islamic principles influenced the legal and social framework, the actual management of the empire was handled through a secular administrative machinery that allowed the Sultan to exercise ultimate political and military authority.

197. (C) Diwan-i-Insha - Department of Correspondence
The central administration of the Delhi Sultanate was organized into specialized departments that managed distinct aspects of the state. The Diwan-i-Insha was responsible for handling all official royal correspondence, ensuring that the Sultan's decrees were accurately recorded and transmitted. Other major departments included the Diwan-i-Wizarat for finance, the Diwan-i-Arz for military affairs, and the Diwan-i-Risalat for religious and foreign matters. This structured division of labor allowed for the systematic governance of the empire through a professional and well-organized central bureaucracy.

198. (B) Qandahar
Qandahar was a major strategic and commercial city that remained a point of contention between the Mughal Empire and the Safavid Empire of Persia for over a century. Located at a vital crossroads for trade and invasion, its control was essential for the security of the North-West frontier. The city frequently changed hands as both empires launched multiple military campaigns to possess it. For the Mughals, Qandahar was one of the "twin gates" of Hindustan, crucial for monitoring potential threats and controlling overland trade routes.

199. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Mansabdari system was the defining administrative framework of the Mughal Empire, organizing the entire elite and bureaucracy into a single, graded service. Each official was assigned a rank consisting of two components: Zat and Sawar. The Zat rank indicated the noble's personal status and determined their individual salary, while the Sawar rank dictated the number of cavalrymen they were required to maintain for the state. This system successfully integrated civil and military roles, ensuring that the nobility remained a professional and centrally controlled service class.

200. (A) The combination of high revenue demands, administrative exploitation, and the jagirdari crisis.
The agrarian distress that fueled frequent peasant revolts during the late seventeenth century was caused by a convergence of several negative economic factors. Prolonged imperial wars necessitated increasingly high land revenue demands, placing an unbearable burden on the peasantry. This was worsened by the exploitation of local officials and the instability of the jagirdari system, where desperate nobles over-taxed their assignments. These pressures undermined rural stability, leading to widespread dissatisfaction and armed resistance among the farming communities that formed the empire's economic foundation.

201. (C) Peshwa, Amatya, Sumant, Senapati
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan consisted of eight specific ministerial positions created to manage the Maratha central administration. This council included the Peshwa, who acted as the prime minister, and the Amatya, who managed finance and accounts. The Sumant was responsible for foreign affairs, while the Senapati served as the commander-in-chief of the army. These roles were distinct from officials in other systems, such as the Mughal Faujdar or the Sultanate Wazir, and represented a specialized indigenous approach to organizing the various departments of the central government.

202. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Medieval Indian administration relied on several distinct systems and concepts to function effectively. The Mansabdari system organized the nobility into a graded military-bureaucratic hierarchy, while the Jagirdari system provided revenue assignments as compensation for service. In the financial sector, the hundi acted as a sophisticated bill of exchange for trade and remittances. Ideologically, a theocratic state was one governed in accordance with religious law. Each of these components played a specific role in managing the political, economic, and social life of the major medieval empires.

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203. (D) A community of professional transporters and traders of bulk goods like grain and salt.
The Banjaras were an essential group in the medieval economy, serving as specialized nomadic transporters and traders. They traveled in large caravans, moving massive quantities of bulk commodities such as grain, salt, and butter between different regions of the country. By connecting rural production areas with urban markets and military camps, the Banjaras ensured the steady supply of basic necessities across the empire. Their role was so critical that they were often granted special protection by rulers to facilitate the smooth flow of internal trade.

204. (B) A highly centralized monarchy supported by the Nayankara system.
The Vijayanagara state was characterized by a powerful, centralized monarchy where the king exercised absolute authority. To manage its sprawling southern territories, the empire utilized the Nayankara system, which delegated local military and administrative duties to powerful chiefs known as Nayakas. These chiefs were granted land in exchange for providing troops and financial support to the central government. This model allowed the empire to maintain a massive military presence and provide effective local governance while keeping the ultimate power concentrated in the hands of the sovereign.

205. (C) To prevent them from developing local roots and becoming too powerful.
One of the key administrative strategies of the Mughal emperors was the frequent transfer of jagirdars between different revenue assignments. By ensuring that nobles did not stay in one region for a long period, the state prevented them from building deep local connections or establishing personal power bases. This policy was essential for maintaining centralized control over the nobility, as it kept the officials mobile and entirely dependent on the emperor's favor for their continued income and status, rather than becoming independent landed aristocrats.

206. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
Sher Shah Suri implemented a series of highly effective and practical reforms during his short reign. He standardized the currency by introducing the silver rupiya and copper dam and improved military discipline by reviving the system of branding horses. Additionally, he invested heavily in infrastructure, notably constructing the Grand Trunk Road to facilitate trade and travel. While his systems provided a stable foundation for the state, he did not completely abolish the practice of assigning revenue from land, which continued alongside other administrative changes.

207. (A) A combination of natural and man-made factors.
Famines in medieval India were often complex events caused by both environmental failures and human actions. A prolonged drought would drastically reduce agricultural output, creating a local food shortage. When such a natural disaster coincided with military campaigns, the situation turned into a catastrophe. Warfare led to the destruction of existing grain stores, blocked essential trade routes, and diverted resources away from relief efforts. This convergence of natural failure and the social disruption of war was the primary driver of widespread suffering during such crises.

208. (C) A is true but R is false.
The relationship between the Bahamani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire was characterized by near-constant warfare and territorial competition rather than peaceful integration. Both states fought intensely for regional supremacy in the Deccan, particularly over the control of fertile areas like the Raichur doab. Their conflicts were driven by deep-seated political ambitions and economic interests. While they influenced each other's administrative and military practices, they remained fierce rivals for over a century, representing two distinct and often opposing cultural and political blocks in South India.

209. (B) To maintain law and order and collect revenue from their Iqta.
In the provincial administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the Muqti or Wali served as the vital link between the central government and the regions. Appointed by the Sultan, these officials were responsible for the management of an iqta, or revenue assignment. Their primary duties included maintaining local law and order,

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223. (A) He was the officer in charge of revenue collection in a district (sarkar).
In the Mughal administrative hierarchy, the Amil, also known as the Amalguzar, held a vital financial position at the district or sarkar level. His primary responsibility was the effective assessment and collection of land revenue from the agricultural lands within his jurisdiction. He worked to ensure that the state's share of the produce was accurately determined and collected in a timely manner. By managing these essential financial operations, the Amil provided the central government with the resources needed to maintain the empire's bureaucracy and military.

224. (A) 1 and 2
The central administration of the Delhi Sultanate was organized into specialized departments that managed specific state functions. The Diwan-i-Arz was responsible for all military affairs, including troop recruitment and inspections. The Diwan-i-Risalat handled religious matters, charities, and foreign appeals. In contrast, the Diwan-i-Insha was the department of royal correspondence, while the Diwan-i-Wizarat, led by the Wazir, oversaw the state's finances. This structured division of labor ensured that each major area of governance was managed by a dedicated and professional office reporting to the Sultan.

225. (B) The state's role as a large-scale producer and consumer of luxury goods.
The establishment of karkhanas, or royal workshops, highlights the central role the medieval Indian state played in the economic life of the country. These institutions were created to manufacture high-quality goods, such as fine textiles, jewelry, and weaponry, exclusively for the imperial court. By employing thousands of skilled artisans and purchasing vast amounts of raw materials, the state acted as both a major producer and the primary consumer of luxury items. This system supported specialized crafts and ensured a steady supply of prestigious goods for the elite.

226. (A) High land revenue demand and exploitation by intermediaries.
Peasant uprisings during the Mughal period were most frequently caused by extreme economic hardship within the rural population. The primary driver was the heavy burden of high land revenue demands, which often left farmers without enough food to survive. This pressure was frequently worsened by the exploitation of local officials and intermediaries who extracted additional payments for personal gain. These economic grievances, combined with the lack of effective state protection during times of poor harvests, led many peasants to abandon their lands or take up arms in revolt.

227. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Medieval Indian states developed distinct administrative frameworks to manage their power. The Maratha state under Shivaji utilized a centralized autocracy supported by the Asta Pradhan council. The Delhi Sultanate was theoretically a theocratic state that relied on the iqta system for land management. In the south, the Vijayanagara Empire functioned as a militaristic state through the Nayankara system. Meanwhile, the Mughal Empire created a sophisticated bureaucratic structure based on the Mansabdari system. Each model reflected the unique political and military needs of its respective dynasty.

228. (D) The support of powerful nobles and military strength.
Succession in the Delhi Sultanate was often an unstable process because there was no fixed or universally respected law of transfer of power. While some Sultans nominated their heirs, the actual outcome frequently depended on who could command the most military support and the loyalty of powerful noble factions. This meant that the death of a ruler often triggered intense political maneuvering and violent conflict among various claimants. Ultimately, the person who could consolidate military strength and political alliances usually emerged as the next sovereign.

229. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The Mughal economy was far from a simple subsistence system; it featured a highly developed and vibrant commercial sector. Extensive internal trade networks linked rural production areas with major urban centers, while international maritime and overland trade connected India with global markets. This flourishing commerce was supported by sophisticated financial instruments like hundis and a reliable standardized currency

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revenue system based on surveys. To ensure central authority, he discouraged the hereditary jagirdari system. His state also generated income through Chauth and Sardeshmukhi from neighboring regions. Additionally, he recognized the importance of maritime defense by building a strong navy. Together, these features created a resilient and highly organized state that effectively challenged existing powers.

217. (C) The safety and convenience it offered for transferring large sums of money.
The widespread use of hundis in medieval India was driven by the practical needs of long-distance trade. Carrying large amounts of physical gold or silver over long distances was both dangerous due to the threat of robbery and cumbersome. The hundi, acting as a bill of exchange issued by professional bankers, allowed merchants to transfer funds safely through paper credit. This sophisticated financial tool simplified transactions, reduced the risks associated with travel, and facilitated the overall integration of the empire's vibrant and extensive commercial networks.

218. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Mughal policy of integrating Rajput chiefs into the imperial structure was a masterstroke of diplomacy and statecraft, particularly under Akbar. By forming matrimonial alliances and granting high mansabs to Rajput rulers, the Mughals turned potential rivals into loyal and powerful allies. This policy allowed the empire to utilize the exceptional military skills of the Rajputs for further expansion while ensuring stability in North India. This strategic integration was a crucial factor in the consolidation and long-term success of the Mughal administration.

219. (D) The number of cavalrymen (troopers) the mansabdar was required to maintain.
In the Mughal Mansabdari system, the Sawar rank specifically indicated an official's military obligations to the state. It dictated the exact number of mounted troopers and horses that the mansabdar was required to recruit, equip, and maintain for the imperial army. This rank ensured that the empire had a large and ready fighting force without the need for a single centralized army. The Sawar rank, along with the personal Zat rank, determined the official's total responsibilities and the associated revenue assignment or cash salary.

220. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The border between the Bahamani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire remained a site of constant military conflict for over a century. Both states were driven by the desire to control fertile and strategically vital territories in the Deccan. The most significant prizes in this struggle were the Raichur doab, the Krishna-Godavari delta, and the Marathwada country. These regions were highly productive and provided significant revenue, making them the focus of numerous campaigns as each state sought to establish regional dominance and economic supremacy.

221. (C) They introduced superior naval power and sought to control and monopolize sea lanes and trade.
The arrival of European traders in the Indian Ocean fundamentally altered the existing maritime trade networks. Utilizing superior naval technology and weaponry, powers like the Portuguese, and later the Dutch and English, sought to establish dominance over the sea lanes. They implemented systems like the cartaz to control shipping and used military force to monopolize the trade in profitable commodities like spices and textiles. This shift from peaceful commercial competition to naval-based trade control significantly impacted the economic autonomy of Indian and other Asian merchants.

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222. (D) The majority of the population was rural and engaged in agriculture.
Medieval India was characterized by an overwhelmingly agrarian society where the vast majority of the population resided in rural villages. While cities were significant as administrative, religious, and trade hubs, they housed only a small percentage of the total people. Most families were directly involved in the cultivation of food and cash crops, which formed the bedrock of the entire economic system. This rural-focused demographic structure meant that the health of the agricultural sector dictated the overall prosperity and stability of the entire subcontinent.

particularly under the rule of the later Peshwas, many of these high-ranking offices within the Maratha administration began to pass from father to son, becoming hereditary features of the state.

250. (A) A deep-seated crisis in the agrarian economy and the administrative machinery.
The frequent peasant revolts during the latter half of Aurangzeb's reign were symptomatic of a deepening systemic crisis within the Mughal Empire. These uprisings were driven by unbearable economic pressure caused by high land revenue demands and the over-exploitation of the peasantry by local officials. The ongoing jagirdari crisis further destabilized rural administration, as desperate nobles sought to extract maximum income from their assignments. Together, these factors undermined the agrarian foundations of the state, leading to widespread dissatisfaction and the gradual erosion of centralized imperial authority.

251. (B) Theocentric
The administrative nature of the Delhi Sultanate is often debated by historians. While some describe it as theocratic, others use a different term to signify a state where religious considerations were central to governance but did not serve as the exclusive basis for all policies. In this system, Sultans also utilized political exigencies to formulate necessary state laws.

252. (A) The absence of a fixed and peaceful law of succession
Political instability within the Delhi Sultanate primarily stemmed from the lack of a clear, universally accepted system of primogeniture. This absence of a fixed law of succession frequently led to violent power struggles among royal heirs, nobles, and military commanders. Consequently, the throne was often secured through military might and loyalty rather than through a predefined birthright.

253. (C) To deal with political necessities that were not covered by the Sharia
While the Sultans generally acknowledged the supremacy of religious law, they encountered complex administrative and political situations requiring practical solutions. Zawabit were state-enforced regulations specifically formulated to address these secular exigencies. These laws allowed the rulers to govern effectively when existing religious principles did not provide direct guidance or were insufficient for managing the state's immediate political requirements.

254. (D) the nominee's ability to consolidate military and political support.
In the Delhi Sultanate, the transition of power was not guaranteed by birth or formal hereditary rules. Instead, the stability of a ruler's claim depended on their personal capability to command the army and gain the allegiance of powerful nobles. This reliance on military power and political consolidation made the succession process highly competitive and prone to internal conflict.

255. (C) By creating a hierarchical system of central, provincial, and local tiers
Effective management of the Sultanate's extensive territories required a multi-layered administrative framework. The system placed the Sultan at the peak, supported by central departments. Below this level, the administration was divided into provinces, known as iqtas, followed by local units. This structure was essential for maintaining order and facilitating the collection of revenue across various regional divisions.

256. (B) The Jagirdari system was a method for paying the salary determined by a Mansabdar's rank.
The Mughal administrative backbone consisted of two interconnected structures. While the Mansabdari system defined an official's status and military obligations, the Jagirdari system functioned as the financial mechanism for compensation. Rather than receiving cash, most Mansabdars were assigned the right to collect land revenue from specific territories, ensuring that their imperial service was funded through rural agricultural output.

257. (D) Sher Shah Suri
The elaborate administrative framework established by the Mughals drew significant inspiration from earlier rulers. Specifically, the land revenue reforms and military organization introduced by Sher Shah Suri provided a crucial foundation for later developments. These earlier systematic changes were refined and expanded by Mughal emperors to create a

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system managed by professional bankers. These elements worked together to create an integrated and wealthy economic environment that maintained India's dominant position in world trade.

230. (B) The imbalance between the number of mansabdars and the availability of revenue-yielding land (jagirs).
The jagirdari crisis was a structural failure that plagued the late Mughal Empire, resulting from a significant increase in the size of the nobility. As the number of high-ranking mansabdars grew, the demand for revenue-yielding land grants—known as jagirs—far exceeded the amount of productive land available for assignment. This scarcity created intense competition among the nobility and forced the state to assign unproductive or disputed lands. This financial strain on the elite led to administrative corruption, a weakening of military strength, and the increased exploitation of the peasantry.

231. (D) Provided a blueprint for the administrative structure of the Mughal empire under Akbar.
Sher Shah Suri's administrative reforms were of immense historical importance because they established practical and efficient systems that significantly influenced subsequent governance. His innovations in land revenue assessment, the creation of a standardized currency, and the organization of provincial administration provided a highly effective model of centralization. When the Mughal emperor Akbar sought to stabilize his own empire, he chose to adopt and refine many of Sher Shah's successful methods. This administrative continuity helped create the robust framework that sustained Mughal rule for centuries.

232. (A) Faujdar
Shivaji's Asta Pradhan was a specific council comprising eight ministerial positions designed for the Maratha central administration. These roles included the Peshwa as prime minister, the Amatya for finance, and the Sumant for foreign affairs. While the title Faujdar was a common term in the Mughal administrative hierarchy for a district-level official responsible for law and order, it was not one of the eight specific ministerial titles that made up the Asta Pradhan council. Shivaji's system focused on a distinct set of portfolios to manage his state's specialized needs.

233. (C) A complex one involving conflict, cooperation, and integration into the Mughal nobility.
The relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Rajput states was far more than simple conquest. Starting with Akbar, the Mughals used a sophisticated combination of military force and strategic diplomacy. They formed matrimonial and political alliances, integrating prominent Rajput chiefs into the imperial nobility as high-ranking mansabdars. This inclusive approach allowed the Mughals to utilize Rajput military prowess while granting the Rajput rulers significant status and local autonomy. This partnership was a crucial factor in the expansion and long-term stability of the Mughal imperial structure.

234. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The Mughal administration was built upon several integrated components that ensured consistent and effective governance. The empire was systematically divided into provinces, districts, and local units for better management. At the core was the Mansabdari system, a graded hierarchy of officials whose roles were supported by the Jagirdari system of revenue assignments. Furthermore, the state maintained economic stability through a standardized trimetallic currency. Together, these features created a robust and sophisticated framework that allowed the empire to manage its vast territories and diverse populations for centuries.

235. (D) Commander-in-Chief
The Senapati held one of the eight ministerial positions in Shivaji's Asta Pradhan, serving as the commander-in-chief of the Maratha military. His primary responsibilities included organizing the army, managing the recruitment of soldiers, and leading the troops during military campaigns. In a state that was frequently engaged in warfare for survival and expansion, the role of the Senapati was vital. By including the military head in the central advisory council, Shivaji ensured that defense and strategic planning remained integral parts of the state's highest decision-making processes.

236. (B) The Nayankara system

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protection and containment. This approach involved the creation of a standing army and the development of fortified lines to safeguard core territories. The policy was fundamentally reactive, aiming to defend existing borders rather than expand them.

267. (B) Military security and protection of trade routes
The Mughal Empire's proactive approach to its frontiers was driven by two main strategic concerns. First, it aimed to ensure military security by controlling entry points and creating buffer zones in the northwest. Second, this policy sought to safeguard the vital overland trade routes connecting India with Central Asia and Persia, which were essential for the empire's economic prosperity.

268. (A) The Mughals shifted from a reactive to a proactive and controlling stance.
A fundamental shift occurred in frontier management during the Mughal period compared to the preceding Sultanate era. While the Delhi Sultans largely focused on defending their borders through containment and forts, the Mughals adopted a forward-looking policy. This involved active engagement, diplomatic maneuvering, and military control over strategic regions like Kabul and Qandahar to pre-emptively manage potential external threats.

269. (C) It was highly expensive in terms of resources and military effort.
Although the Mughal forward policy provided greater strategic depth and control over trade routes, it came with significant costs. Maintaining control over turbulent tribal areas and strategic frontier posts required continuous military campaigns and complex diplomacy. This proactive stance placed a massive financial and logistical burden on the empire, consuming a substantial portion of the state's available wealth and manpower.

270. (D) Balban and Alauddin Khalji
During the Sultanate period, certain rulers were particularly noted for their defensive strategies against external threats. Rulers such as Balban and Alauddin Khalji implemented specific measures to protect the kingdom's core. These actions included the systematic construction of a chain of forts and the maintenance of a well-equipped standing army, which were essential for containing incursions and ensuring border security.

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271. (C) They shifted from a multi-polar conflict to a more centralized imperial system.
The political landscape underwent a significant transformation with the rise of the Mughal Empire. During the Sultanate period, inter-state relations were characterized by fragmented power and competition among various independent kingdoms. However, the Mughals introduced a more centralized system where regional states were increasingly integrated into an imperial framework, requiring them to redefine their status relative to the central authority.

272. (B) Military conflict, treaties, and matrimonial alliances
In the era of the Delhi Sultanate, interactions between the central power and regional kingdoms were driven by the pursuit of territorial advantage. Rulers utilized a variety of methods to navigate these complex relationships. These included direct military engagements, the negotiation of temporary peace treaties, and the use of matrimonial alliances to secure frontiers or forge strategic partnerships against common rivals.

273. (D) military action and diplomatic integration.
The Mughals managed their relationship with the Rajput states through a sophisticated dual strategy. This approach combined assertive military campaigns with clever diplomatic efforts. By offering high-ranking positions within the imperial nobility and forming matrimonial alliances, the Mughal emperors successfully integrated these powerful regional states into the fabric of the empire, transforming former adversaries into vital pillars of the imperial administration.

274. (A) The states of Bijapur, Golconda, and the Marathas
Mughal foreign policy faced one of its most persistent and difficult challenges in the southern regions of the subcontinent. Relations with the Sultanates of Bijapur and Golconda, as well as the emerging Maratha power, remained highly volatile. These interactions frequently shifted

and governance of the province on behalf of the central authority in Delhi.

243. (C) The Delhi Sultanate.
The administrative structure of the Bahamani Sultanate was profoundly influenced by the practices of the Delhi Sultanate. Its founders were familiar with the central and provincial governing methods used in the north, including the division of territory into iqtas and the establishment of various ministerial departments. By adapting these familiar Islamic administrative models to the Deccan, the Bahamani rulers were able to establish an organized and stable government that effectively managed their diverse southern territories. This structural continuity helped the state consolidate its power across the peninsula.

244. (B) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
Medieval Indian industry was defined by its reliance on artisanal skill and natural materials. Cotton textiles were the premier industrial activity, produced through decentralized manual techniques by millions of skilled weavers. Royal karkhanas fulfilled the luxury needs of the elite, while ship-building flourished along the coastlines to support maritime trade. During this era, large-scale steam-powered factories did not exist. Instead, the industrial sector achieved high levels of production and global fame through a domestic, cottage-based system that emphasized the high quality of hand-made goods.

245. (C) The establishment of military cantonments and administrative headquarters.
Urbanization during the Sultanate and Mughal periods was primarily driven by the needs of the imperial state and its large military presence. The creation of grand administrative capitals and the stationing of huge armies required a massive influx of people to provide essential services. This concentration of population and wealth attracted artisans, merchants, and diverse service providers, leading to the rapid growth of cities. These urban centers became hubs of both political power and economic activity, drawing people away from rural areas in search of new opportunities.

246. (B) Foreign affairs and matters related to religious endowments and appeals.
The Diwan-i-Risalat was one of the major central departments in the Delhi Sultanate, managing a variety of specific state functions. Its primary responsibilities included overseeing matters related to religious endowments, charities, and the state's interaction with theologians and scholars. Additionally, it often handled judicial appeals and foreign affairs, including the reception of foreign embassies. By managing these diverse areas, the Diwan-i-Risalat ensured that the Sultanate's religious and diplomatic interests were professionally handled within the central government's administrative framework.

247. (D) Faujdar - Head of a Pargana
The Mughal Empire utilized a systematic hierarchy of officials to manage its territories at different levels. The Subadar led a province, and the provincial Diwan oversaw revenue. The Kotwal served as the chief police officer in urban centers. At the district or sarkar level, the Faujdar was responsible for maintaining law and order and military command. However, the smaller pargana was typically managed by other officials like the Shiqdar or Amil. This organized division of labor ensured that every administrative level had dedicated leadership for security and finance.

248. (A) A bill of exchange
A hundi was a versatile and essential financial instrument used across medieval India, functioning as a bill of exchange or credit document issued by professional bankers known as sarrafs. It allowed merchants to transfer large sums of money between distant cities without the risk of carrying physical cash. By using paper credit, traders could manage their finances more efficiently, settle debts, and raise short-term loans. This sophisticated financial tool was a cornerstone of the vibrant and integrated commercial networks that supported the overall prosperity of the Mughal economy.

249. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Shivaji established the Asta Pradhan as a council of ministers chosen for their individual merit and competence. During his reign, these administrative positions were not hereditary, and the king retained the power to appoint and dismiss officials as he saw fit. This merit-based approach ensured an efficient and responsive government. However, after Shivaji's time,

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The Nayankara system was a distinctive and central feature of the Vijayanagara Empire's administration. Under this system, the king granted revenue-yielding lands to military chiefs, known as Nayakas, in exchange for their loyalty and military service. These chiefs were responsible for maintaining a specified number of troops for the empire's defense and providing regular financial contributions to the central treasury. This decentralized approach to military management and local governance allowed the state to maintain a massive armed force while ensuring Resource collection across its extensive southern territories.

237. (C) Taccavi
Taccavi was a specific type of agricultural loan provided by the state to support farmers during times of distress or to encourage agricultural expansion. Rulers like the Delhi Sultans and Mughal emperors recognized that the state's primary income depended on a productive peasantry. By offering these loans for purchasing essential items like seeds, bullocks, or irrigation equipment, the government helped farmers recover from natural disasters such as droughts. This supportive policy aimed to ensure that fields remained cultivated and that land revenue continued to flow into the imperial treasury.

238. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The Mughal approach to the North-West frontier was not merely defensive; it was an active and strategic "forward policy." The emperors recognized that control over strategic mountain passes and major cities like Kabul and Qandahar was essential for imperial security and trade. Consequently, the Mughals launched numerous offensive campaigns to capture and hold these locations. By maintaining a strong military and diplomatic presence in the North-West, they aimed to create a secure buffer zone that protected the heartland of Hindustan from Central Asian threats and Persian ambitions.

239. (A) The introduction of the silver 'Rupiya' and copper 'Dam' of a fixed standard.
Sher Shah Suri's most enduring contribution to the Indian economy was his standardization of the currency system. He introduced the silver rupiya and the copper dam, which were minted with a high level of metallic purity and consistent weight. This reform replaced a chaotic variety of irregular coins with a reliable and uniform medium of exchange. The silver rupiya, in particular, was so successful that it served as the basis for subsequent Mughal coinage and even influenced the modern currency system of the Indian subcontinent.

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240. (B) An additional 10% tax claimed by the Maratha king as the hereditary headman (Sardeshmukh) of the land.
Sardeshmukhi was a specific revenue claim made by the Maratha king from territories beyond his direct rule. Based on his position as the Sardeshmukh, or the hereditary head of all the Deshmukhs in the region, the king demanded an additional ten percent of the land revenue. This tax was collected alongside Chauth and served as a significant source of income for the Maratha state. These revenue claims allowed the Marathas to project their political authority and fund their military expansion throughout the eighteenth century.

241. (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
The medieval village was a largely self-contained economic unit that provided for most of its residents' needs through local agriculture and craft production. However, it was never completely isolated from the wider regional and national economy. The state's requirement that land revenue be paid in cash forced farmers to interact with nearby urban markets to sell their surplus. This interaction integrated the rural economy into the broader trade networks and ensured that the village remained connected to the overall commercial life of the Sultanate and Mughal empires.

242. (A) The Subadar or Nazim
The Subadar, also known as the Nazim, was the highest-ranking official in a Mughal province, or suba. Appointed directly by the emperor, he served as the political and military head of the provincial administration. His primary responsibilities included maintaining law and order, commanding the provincial army, and ensuring the smooth execution of imperial decrees. While he worked alongside other specialized officials like the Diwan, the Subadar was ultimately responsible for the overall security

more comprehensive and centralized governing structure that integrated the nobility and the military.

258. (A) It led to the over-exploitation of peasants to maximize immediate revenue.
To prevent nobles from establishing deep-seated local power bases, the Mughal state frequently moved officials between different assignments. This policy of regular transfers discouraged Mansabdars from investing in long-term agricultural improvements. Consequently, many officials focused on extracting as much revenue as possible during their brief tenure, which resulted in the severe exploitation of the peasantry for short-term financial gains.

259. (C) the right to collect a specified amount of land revenue.
A Jagir served as a fiscal assignment rather than a grant of land ownership. While a Mansabdar was given the authority to collect revenue from a designated area to cover their salary, they did not possess proprietary or permanent administrative rights over the territory. The region remained under the broader jurisdiction of central and provincial officials within the empire.

260. (A) To integrate the nobility, army, and bureaucracy into one service
The Mansabdari system functioned as a unique and comprehensive imperial institution. Its primary purpose was to unite the military, the civil bureaucracy, and the nobility into a single, cohesive service under the direct control of the emperor. By assigning specific ranks, the system ensured that all high-ranking officials contributed to the administrative and military stability of the Mughal state.

261. (D) The Nayankara system
The Vijayanagara State developed a distinctive administrative feature involving military chiefs who played a central role in governance. These individuals received land territories from the monarch in exchange for providing military service and paying an annual tribute. This arrangement created a localized structure of power and resource management that was uniquely characteristic of the empire's provincial and military organization.

262. (B) The Delhi Sultanate
The administrative organization of the Bahamani Kingdom reflected a significant degree of continuity with northern political traditions. It adopted a highly centralized model that was heavily influenced by the systems prevalent in the Delhi Sultanate. This influence was evident in the powerful role played by the nobility and the structural organization of the state's central authority during its peak.

263. (C) To serve as a council of eight ministers, each with a specific departmental portfolio
Under the leadership of Shivaji, the Maratha administration introduced a structured governing body to oversee state affairs. This council consisted of eight ministers, each assigned a specific area of responsibility, such as finance or internal security. This system established a departmentalized approach to governance, ensuring that different aspects of the state were managed systematically by dedicated high-ranking officials.

264. (D) tribute payments and military support.
The Nayankara system was a foundational element of the Vijayanagara Empire's territorial management. In this arrangement, the king assigned specific lands to military leaders, known as Nayakas. In return for these land assignments, the Nayakas were obligated to provide a fixed number of troops for the imperial army and remit a portion of their collected revenue as tribute.

265. (A) the king's authority was supreme and not bound by the council's advice.
Although the Asta Pradhan represented a sophisticated and departmentalized form of governance, it differed significantly from modern cabinet systems. The primary distinction lay in the distribution of power, as the monarch retained absolute authority over all state decisions. The ministers served primarily as advisors and administrators, and their recommendations were not legally binding upon the supreme will of the king.

266. (B) Largely defensive and focused on containment
The Delhi Sultanate faced persistent threats from the northwest, particularly from Mongol incursions. To address these challenges, rulers primarily adopted a strategy centered on

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commanding a military contingent, and ensuring the efficient collection of land taxes. After meeting their own administrative and military expenses, they were required to remit the surplus revenue to the central treasury in Delhi.

210. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The Mughal state recognized the importance of commerce and actively promoted it by maintaining infrastructure and keeping customs duties relatively low. This support helped trade flourish both within the empire and internationally. However, while trade was a vital part of the economy, it was not the primary source of state income. The vast majority of the empire's revenue continued to be derived from land revenue collected from the agricultural sector. The income from trade-related taxes, though significant, remained secondary to the wealth produced by the peasantry.

211. (C) Suba, Sarkar, Pargana
The Mughal Empire was organized into a clear and systematic hierarchy of administrative divisions to ensure effective governance. The largest unit was the suba, or province, which was governed by a Subadar. Each suba was further divided into several sarkars, which served as district-level units managed by Faujdars. Below the sarkar was the pargana, which consisted of a cluster of villages and functioned as a primary unit for local revenue and administration. Mauza, or individual villages, formed the basic foundation of this entire structured territorial system.

212. (D) Mansabdar - Bahamani military chief
Medieval Indian states developed specific administrative structures to manage their power and resources. The Marathas used the Asta Pradhan for central governance, while the Vijayanagara Empire utilized the Nayankara system for provincial control. The Delhi Sultanate relied on the iqta system for revenue assignments to officials. However, the term mansabdar was specifically associated with the Mughal administrative hierarchy, where it determined an official's rank and responsibilities. It was not a title used for military chiefs within the administration of the earlier Bahamani Sultanate.

213. (C) Trade and Commerce
The economic policies of the medieval state had a direct and significant impact on the commercial sector. By levying consistent customs duties and maintaining essential infrastructure like roads and sarais, the government facilitated the safe and efficient movement of goods between regions. These measures reduced transaction costs for merchants and encouraged both internal and international trade. A well-regulated commercial environment allowed markets to flourish, ensuring a steady flow of both essential commodities and luxury goods while providing the state with a valuable source of indirect revenue.

214. (B) Technology was traditional and skill-intensive, with little change over centuries.
Technology in medieval Indian industries was characterized by high levels of manual skill and artisanal excellence rather than rapid mechanical innovation. Production methods in sectors like textiles, metalwork, and jewelry remained traditional and were passed down through generations. While these techniques were highly effective at producing some of the finest goods in the world, they did not involve the use of steam power or large-scale machinery. This reliance on individual craftsmanship defined the industrial landscape until the arrival of modern industrial processes in later centuries.

215. (D) The noble's personal status and salary in the administrative hierarchy.
In the Mughal Mansabdari system, the Zat rank was a numerical designation that fixed an official's personal status and determined their place in the court hierarchy. Higher Zat ranks were reserved for members of the royal family and the high nobility. This rank was also the primary factor used to calculate the official's personal salary from the imperial treasury. Along with the Sawar rank, which dictated military obligations, the Zat rank provided a precise measure of an official's importance and financial standing within the empire.

216. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
Shivaji's administration was remarkably comprehensive and innovative, combining centralized control with effective local systems. He established the Asta Pradhan for central advice and implemented a well-organized land

between open warfare, diplomatic negotiations, and subsidiary alliances, representing a major preoccupation for the empire as it sought southern expansion.

275. (C) The political landscape was characterized by competition among multiple power centers.
Inter-state relations during the Sultanate era were marked by a lack of central hegemony over the entire subcontinent. Instead, the period saw constant competition between the Delhi Sultanate and several powerful regional kingdoms like Bengal, Gujarat, and the Bahmanis. This multi-polar environment meant that political stability was often temporary, as various states vied for regional dominance and territorial control.

276. (A) To support agricultural production and ensure future revenue collection
The state provided financial assistance to the peasantry in the form of taccavi loans to ensure economic continuity. These funds were specifically intended for the purchase of essential agricultural inputs like seeds and tools, particularly following natural disasters. By supporting the farmers during times of distress, the state aimed to maintain consistent cultivation levels, thereby securing its future revenue streams.

277. (D) a socially and economically stratified group.
The rural population in medieval India was far from uniform in terms of status and wealth. Instead, the peasantry consisted of diverse groups with varying levels of access to resources. This internal hierarchy ranged from affluent landholders who possessed proprietary rights to marginalized landless laborers. Such stratification meant that the economic experiences and social standings of individual peasants differed significantly.

278. (B) To sustain and expand agricultural production
State investment in irrigation infrastructure, including the construction of canals and wells, was a critical economic priority. These systems were essential for facilitating agricultural activities, especially in regions prone to aridity. By improving water access, the state sought to increase the overall volume of agricultural output, which was the primary foundation of the medieval economy and the source of revenue.

279. (C) It was centered on the need to maintain a stable and predictable source of revenue.
The primary motivation behind the state's interventions in the village economy was fiscal stability. Since land revenue formed the bedrock of the treasury, rulers took a keen interest in agricultural extension and improvement. By providing loans and developing irrigation, the state aimed to ensure that the rural economy remained productive enough to provide a consistent and predictable income for the administration.

280. (D) The system of assigning revenue grants to religious bodies.
Beyond the direct extraction of taxes from the peasantry, the medieval village economy was influenced by specialized land assignments. Rulers frequently granted the revenue rights of specific areas to religious individuals or institutions. This system played a significant role in shaping the rural social structure and economic landscape, as it redirected local resources toward the maintenance of various spiritual and educational establishments.

281. (A) Cotton textile production
During the medieval period, India possessed a highly vibrant and diverse industrial sector. Among the various manufacturing activities, the production of cotton textiles stood out as the most significant and widespread industry. Indian fabrics were renowned for their high quality and craftsmanship, experiencing massive demand not only within the domestic market but also across various international trade networks in Asia and Europe.

282. (B) state-sponsored workshops employing artisans for royal needs
The karkhanas were a distinctive feature of the medieval industrial organization, serving the specific requirements of the ruling elite. These establishments functioned as large-scale workshops where numerous skilled artisans were employed to produce high-quality luxury items. The goods manufactured in these facilities were primarily intended for the use of the imperial court, the royal household, and the needs of the army.

283. (B) On a household and artisanal basis

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to a cash-based economy. This was essential for the efficient collection of land revenue and the regular payment of salaries to the army and the bureaucracy, ensuring the smooth functioning of the centralized fiscal apparatus.

300. (A) They were often a direct reaction against the state's fiscal policies.

Peasant uprisings during the medieval period were generally not spontaneous acts of violence but were driven by specific economic grievances. These revolts were frequently directed at the state's revenue-collecting agents and the overall fiscal system. When the burden of taxation became unbearable, particularly during environmental crises, the peasantry resorted to open rebellion to protest against what they perceived as an oppressive administration.

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291. (C) To function as a credit instrument for transferring funds without using cash
The Hundi served as a highly sophisticated financial tool that facilitated large-scale commercial transactions. It acted as a bill of exchange or credit note, allowing merchants to transfer money across long distances without the need to transport physical currency. This mechanism was essential for the smooth operation of trade, as it enabled the secure movement of capital between different commercial centers.

292. (A) Bankers or money-changers who issued Hundis
Sarrafs were specialized financial professionals who played a vital role in the medieval Indian economy. Operating extensive networks throughout the subcontinent, these bankers and money-changers were responsible for issuing and honoring Hundis. Their services provided the necessary financial infrastructure for long-distance trade, allowing the mercantile community to manage funds efficiently and navigate the complexities of a currency-based and credit-based commercial system.

293. (D) It reduced the risk of theft during the transport of money.
Carrying large quantities of cash over long and often dangerous travel routes posed a significant security threat to medieval merchants. The Hundi system addressed this problem by providing a paper-based credit alternative. By using these bills of exchange, traders could move wealth between distant markets without the physical presence of coins, thereby greatly minimizing the risk of robbery and financial loss.

294. (B) Loss of goods during transit by land or sea
The commercial environment of medieval India included early forms of insurance to protect mercantile interests. Merchants could pay a premium to safeguard their shipments against potential disasters during transportation. This coverage was designed to mitigate the financial impact of losing high-value goods while they were being moved across overland caravan routes or through perilous maritime voyages to distant domestic and international ports.

295. (C) A high degree of commercial organization and trust
The widespread use of advanced financial instruments such as the Hundi and maritime insurance reflects the maturity of the medieval economy. These mechanisms required a complex network of professionals and a shared system of reliability among traders. Their existence demonstrates that the mercantile community had developed a high level of organizational sophistication and mutual trust, which were necessary for sustaining long-distance commerce.

296. (D) The army and the administrative machinery
The financial resources of the medieval state were primarily directed toward two major sectors. A significant portion of the treasury was consumed by the maintenance of a large and well-equipped standing army, which was necessary for defense and expansion. Additionally, the vast administrative apparatus, including the support of the nobility and government officials, represented a massive and continuous expenditure for the state.

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297. (A) revolts were often a response to the state's inflexible revenue demands during crises.
Natural disasters like famines frequently caused severe disruptions to agricultural output, leaving the peasantry in a state of extreme vulnerability. When the administration failed to provide relief and instead insisted on the rigid collection of land revenue, it often triggered widespread unrest. These revolts were a direct reaction to the state's oppressive fiscal policies and its lack of flexibility during times of hardship.

298. (B) Revenue collected from land
The fiscal health of the medieval state depended most heavily on the agricultural sector. While the treasury received some income from customs duties, minting, and other minor taxes, land revenue remained the principal and most consistent source of wealth. This reliance made agricultural productivity the primary focus of the state's economic policies, as it funded the military and the entire administrative structure.

299. (B) To enable the collection of revenue and payment of salaries in cash
A well-regulated mint system and a standardized currency were fundamental to the state's financial operations. These mechanisms allowed the administration to transition from a barter system

48. The Alvars and Nayanars were two groups of saints from South India who were instrumental in the early Bhakti movement. They were devotees of:
(A) Shiva and Vishnu, respectively.
(B) Vishnu and Shiva, respectively.
(C) Brahma and Vishnu, respectively.
(D) Devi and Shiva, respectively.

49. Consider the following aspects of Mughal architecture:
1. The use of the double dome to create a grand exterior and a proportionate interior ceiling.
2. The 'Charbagh' layout for gardens and tomb complexes.
3. The extensive use of white marble and pietra dura, especially under Shah Jahan.
4. The construction of massive hill forts as the primary form of imperial residenc(E)
5. The incorporation of trabeate features from Indian tradition alongside the arcuate system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

50. The term 'Khalsa Panth' refers to:
(A) The collected teachings of Guru Nanak.
(B) The community of the initiated Sikh brotherhood and sisterhood.
(C) The Sikh tradition of martial arts.
(D) The council of elders in a Gurudwara.

51. The main difference between a cultivator and an artisan in medieval rural society was that:
(A) Cultivators were engaged in agriculture, while artisans provided specialized goods and services.
(B) Cultivators owned land, while artisans were landless.
(C) Artisans paid taxes, while cultivators were exempt.
(D) Artisans lived in cities, while cultivators lived exclusively in villages.

52. The 'Devadasi' system, despite its original sacred intent, often led to:
(A) The economic empowerment of women across all castes.
(B) The decline of classical dance and music.
(C) The exploitation of the women dedicated to temples.
(D) The rise of female saints as political leaders.

53. The curriculum in medieval centres of education was designed to prepare students primarily for:
(A) Engagement in overseas trade and commercial ventures.
(B) A traditional life centered on rural agricultural labor.
(C) Professional careers in the artistic and musical sectors.
(D) Roles in the state bureaucracy, judiciary, and religion.

54. Arrange the following Mughal emperors in the correct chronological order of their reigns:
1. Jahangir
2. Akbar
3. Shah Jahan
4. Humayun

(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 4, 1, 2, 3
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

55. The 'Gita Govinda' by Jayadeva, a text central to Vaishnava Bhakti, celebrates the love between:
(A) Rama and Sita
(B) Shiva and Parvati
(C) Radha and Krishna
(D) Vishnu and Lakshmi

56. Which of the following is NOT one of the five 'K's that a Khalsa Sikh is required to wear?
(A) Kesh (uncut hair)
(B) Kamandal (a water pot)
(C) Kangha (a wooden comb)
(D) Kirpan (a sword or dagger)

57. The 'Ulemas' derived their authority and influence in medieval society from their:
(A) Vast landholdings and military power.
(B) Control over long-distance trade routes.
(C) Hereditary claims to nobility.
(D) Expertise in interpreting the Sharia (Islamic law).

58. Which of the following is an example of a regional architectural style in medieval India?

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CHAPTER 06

Medieval India: Society and Culture

1. What does the term 'Silsila' refer to in the context of Sufism?
(A) A comprehensive set of religious laws followed by Sufi orders.
(B) A spiritual lineage connecting a Sufi master to their disciples.
(C) A traditional form of mystical poetry recited in Sufi gatherings.
(D) A charitable kitchen established at a prominent Sufi shrine.

2. The Bhakti tradition that centers on the worship of Vishnu and his avatars, such as Rama and Krishna, is known as:
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Shaktism
(D) Tantrism

3. Which of the following statements accurately describes a core teaching of Guru Nanak Dev?
(A) He advocated for a rigid caste hierarchy to maintain social order.
(B) He promoted asceticism and withdrawal from worldly affairs as the path.
(C) He emphasized belief in one formless God and the equality of humanity.
(D) He insisted on Sanskrit as the sole language for religious scripture.

4. In the social classification of medieval India, the 'Ulemas' were primarily:
(A) High-ranking military commanders.
(B) Long-distance merchants and traders.
(C) Hereditary landholders in rural areas.
(D) Scholars of Islamic law and theology.

5. Which of the following is a major school of painting that flourished under the patronage of the Mughal emperors?
(A) The Pahari School
(B) The Rajasthani School
(C) The Mughal School
(D) The Garhwali School

6. The architectural style that emerged in medieval India from the fusion of indigenous Indian and Islamic traditions is known as:
(A) Dravidian Architecture
(B) Indo-Islamic Architecture
(C) Nagara Architecture
(D) Mauryan Architecture

7. Who among the following was a leading Sufi saint of the Chishti order in India?
(A) Shaikh Baha-ud-din Zakariya
(B) Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani
(C) Khwaja Baha-ud-din Naqshband
(D) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

8. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Bhakti and Sufi movements contributed significantly to 'social synchronization' in medieval India.
Reason (R) : Both movements emphasized love, devotion, and humanity, often using vernacular languages, which appealed to the common masses and transcended religious divides.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) Assertion A is factually true but Reason R is factually false.
(D) Assertion A is factually false but Reason R is factually true.

9. The worship of the female principle or the Divine Mother as the supreme deity is the central tenet of which Bhakti tradition?
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Shaktism
(D) The Nanakpanth

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(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

29. The Indo-Islamic architectural tradition is distinguished by its use of the:
(A) Trabeate system, using beams and lintels.
(B) Monolithic rock-cut method.
(C) Arcuate system, using arches and domes.
(D) Wooden frames and thatched roofs.

30. Which of the following is a key feature of regional architectural styles that developed in medieval India?
(A) Complete uniformity with the imperial Mughal style.
(B) The total rejection of all Islamic architectural elements.
(C) The exclusive use of wood and brick in all constructions.
(D) A blend of imperial Sultanate or Mughal features with local traditions and materials.

31. Who was the founder of the Suhrawardi order of Sufis in India?
(A) Shaikh Baha-ud-din Zakariya
(B) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
(C) Nizamuddin Auliya
(D) Baba Farid

32. The tradition of devotional worship of Lord Shiva, emphasizing a personal relationship with the deity, is known as:
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Ganapatya
(D) Shaktism

33. Which of the following statements about the women saints of medieval India is incorrect?
(A) They came from diverse social backgrounds, including royal and lower-caste families.
(B) They all belonged to a single, organized religious order.
(C) Their devotional compositions often challenged patriarchal norms.
(D) Figures like Mirabai, Akka Mahadevi, and Lal Ded are prominent examples.

34. The term 'Mercantile and Professional Classes' in medieval India refers to groups such as:
(A) Traders, bankers, and physicians.
(B) The nobility and military aristocracy.
(C) Priests, monks, and ascetics.
(D) Landless agricultural laborers.

35. Match the architectural terms in List I with their descriptions in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Term)
P. Jaali
Q. Minaret
R. Buland Darwaza
S. Garbhagriha
List II: (Description)
1. Monumental gateway at Fatehpur Sikri
2. Inner sanctum of a Hindu temple
3. Perforated stone lattice screen
4. Tall, slender tower of a mosque
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

36. Which of the following was a renowned center for education during the Sultanate period, often called the 'Shiraz of the East'?
(A) Delhi
(B) Lahore
(C) Agra
(D) Jaunpur

37. The development of music in medieval India saw the rise of new genres resulting from the interaction of Indian and Perso-Arabic systems. A prominent example is:
(A) The Gregorian Chant
(B) The Drupad
(C) The Qawwali
(D) The Carnatic Kriti

38. Which Mughal emperor's reign is considered the golden age of Mughal painting?
(A) Babur
(B) Jahangir
(C) Akbar
(D) Aurangzeb

39. The concept of "Social Synchronization" promoted by the Sufis primarily aimed at:

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19. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic feature of the Rajasthani school of painting?
(A) Depiction of themes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
(B) Focus on vibrant and contrasting primary and secondary colors.
(C) Exclusive focus on courtly portraiture and realistic documentation.
(D) Romantic depiction of themes like Radha-Krishna and folk legends.

20. Maratha forts are renowned for their:
(A) Elaborate use of white marble and pietra dura.
(B) Symmetrical 'Charbagh' garden layouts.
(C) Large, unsupported domes and minarets.
(D) Strategic locations on hilltops and strong defensive features.

21. The central concept in the teachings of the Sufis is the pursuit of spiritual union with God through:
(A) Strict adherence to ritualistic practices.
(B) Political power and military conquest.
(C) Love ('Ishq') and devotion ('Bhakti').
(D) Intellectual debate and philosophical argument alone.

22. Arrange the following saints of the Bhakti movement in the correct chronological order of their period of activity:
1. Ramanuja
2. Kabir
3. The Alvars
4. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

23. The sacred scripture of Sikhism, compiled by the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, is known as the:
(A) Dasam Granth
(B) Janamsakhi
(C) Zafarnama
(D) Adi Granth

24. Rajput society in the medieval period was characterized by a strong emphasis on:
(A) Lineage, clan honor, and martial values.
(B) A casteless social structure.
(C) A mercantile and trade-based economy.
(D) A central, unified political authority.

25. Consider the following statements regarding the socio-religious impact of medieval saints:
1. They often criticized caste-based discrimination and ritualism.
2. Their teachings were exclusively delivered in Sanskrit to maintain scriptural purity.
3. They fostered a sense of direct, personal devotion to Go(D)
4. Many of their compositions contributed to the development of regional literatur(E)
5. They were universally opposed to the institution of the family and advocated for monasticism for all.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 5 only
(B) 2 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

26. Which of the following social groups belonged to the 'non-cultivating classes' in a typical medieval Indian village?
(A) Village artisans like potters and blacksmiths
(B) Khud-kashta peasants (owner-cultivators)
(C) Pahi-kashta peasants (tenant-cultivators)
(D) Muzarian (sharecroppers)

27. The curriculum of 'Madarasa education' in medieval India typically included:
(A) Exclusively the study of the Vedas and Upanishads.
(B) Primarily vocational skills such as carpentry and metalwork.
(C) The study of European languages and classical literature.
(D) A mix of theology, law, logic, philosophy, and sciences.

28. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Pahari school of painting is known for its lyrical quality and delicate emotional expression.
Reason (R) : It drew significant inspiration from Vaishnava devotional themes, particularly the legends of Radha and Krishna.

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10. Who among the following was a prominent woman saint from medieval Maharashtra, known for her 'abhangas' (devotional poetry)?
(A) Janabai
(B) Akka Mahadevi
(C) Lalleshwari (Lal Ded)
(D) Andal

11. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Khalsa' established by Guru Gobind Singh:
1. It is a community of initiated Sikhs.
2. It was created to defend the faith and fight against tyranny.
3. The initiation ceremony is known as Amrit Sanchar.
4. Membership in the Khalsa was restricted to men of a specific cast(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

12. The 'Zanana' system in medieval Indian society is best described as:
(A) A structural system of matrilineal inheritance and land rights.
(B) The practice of secluding women in dedicated domestic quarters.
(C) A formal guild consisting of female merchant traders and artisans.
(D) A religious order established exclusively for royal court women.

13. The 'pietra dura' technique, a hallmark of Mughal architecture, involves:
(A) The use of red sandstone for building facades.
(B) The construction of large, bulbous domes.
(C) The inlay of precious and semi-precious stones into marble.
(D) The creation of intricate latticed screens (jaalis).

14. The term 'Charbagh' in the context of Mughal architecture refers to:
(A) A fortified palace.
(B) A specific type of dome.
(C) A public audience hall.
(D) A formal garden divided into four quadrants.

15. Match the medieval saints listed in List I with the regions they are most associated with in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Saint)
P. Narsinh Mehta
Q. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
R. Shankaradeva
S. Tukaram
List II: (Region)
1. Bengal
2. Maharashtra
3. Gujarat
4. Assam
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

16. What was the primary function of village officials in the rural society of medieval India?
(A) To provide religious instruction and lead worship.
(B) To act as intermediaries for revenue collection between the state and the peasantry.
(C) To command the village militia in times of war.
(D) To adjudicate all civil and criminal cases within the village.

17. The 'Devadasi' system was a practice associated with:
(A) The election of female chieftains in tribal communities.
(B) The dedication of women to the service of a deity in a temple.
(C) A form of female monasticism in the Buddhist tradition.
(D) The household of the empress in the Mughal court.

18. In the context of medieval education, a 'Madarasa' was primarily an institution for:
(A) Higher learning in Islamic sciences and other disciplines.
(B) Elementary religious instruction for children and youths.
(C) Vocational training in traditional village crafts and arts.
(D) Military and strategic studies for the imperial officer corps.

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(A) Imposing a single religious doctrine on all communities.
(B) Encouraging the conversion of diverse people to a single faith.
(C) Creating a unified political state under Sufi leadership.
(D) Fostering harmony and mutual understanding between different religious groups.

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhakti movement:
1. It was a monolithic movement with a single leader and doctrin(E)
2. It was characterized by an emphasis on devotion (bhakti) as the primary means of salvation.
3. It rejected the need for intermediaries like priests in reaching Go(D)
4. It was confined only to the southern regions of Indi(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

41. Guru Nanak's practice of 'Sangat' and 'Pangat' refers to:
(A) The practices of meditation and asceticism.
(B) The holy scripture and the place of worship.
(C) The congregation for worship and the communal meal for all, regardless of caste.
(D) The acts of pilgrimage and ritual sacrifice.

42. What was the position of the 'Ruling Class' in the social structure of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire?
(A) They formed the apex of the social pyramid, comprising the emperor, nobles, and high officials.
(B) They were at the bottom of the social hierarchy, serving the cultivators.
(C) They were a small, specialized group of religious scholars.
(D) They were synonymous with the merchant class, controlling all trade.

43. Petty Chieftains in medieval rural society were:
(A) Directly appointed governors from the imperial capital.
(B) Landless laborers who organized themselves into groups.
(C) Traveling merchants who settled in rural areas.
(D) Intermediary zamindars or local hereditary chiefs with control over villages.

44. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The position of women in medieval India was complex, with instances of both honor and subjugation.
Reason (R) : While practices like the 'Zanana' system and Sati existed, there were also influential women saints and female rulers in some regional kingdoms.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

45. The Garhwali School is a sub-school of which major school of Indian painting?
(A) Mughal
(B) Deccani
(C) Pahari
(D) Rajasthani

46. Which of the following is a characteristic feature of Indo-Arabic architecture?
(A) The complete absence of decoration or ornamentation.
(B) The primary use of wood and bamboo.
(C) The construction of pyramidal towers (shikharas).
(D) The use of arches, domes, and geometric patterns.

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47. The practice of 'Sama' in Sufism refers to:
(A) A gathering for listening to mystical music and poetry to induce a spiritual state.
(B) A period of silent, solitary meditation.
(C) The recital of the Quran in a specific melodic form.
(D) The act of charitable giving to the poor.

In medieval India, the manufacturing of goods like textiles was largely decentralized. Production was typically organized within individual households or small-scale artisanal units, where specialized skills were carefully preserved and passed down through generations. This system relied on the expertise of independent craftsmen who worked outside of modern factory settings, contributing to the high degree of diversity in artisanal products.

284. (A) Flourishing industries fostered the growth of urban centers.
While the majority of the population remained in rural areas, industrial activities played a vital role in the development of cities. The concentration of various crafts and manufacturing processes led to the emergence of specialized production centers. These busy commercial hubs grew into significant urban environments, attracting artisans, traders, and laborers, which further stimulated the growth of towns throughout the empire.

285. (C) a reliance on traditional artisanal skill and process sophistication.
Industrial production in medieval India was characterized by a high level of technical proficiency despite the absence of modern machinery. Technology was deeply rooted in traditional artisanal skills that had been refined over centuries. This led to considerable sophistication in specific processes such as weaving, dyeing, and metallurgy, allowing craftsmen to produce exceptionally high-quality goods that were prized in global markets.

286. (D) Ensuring the safety of trade routes and regulating markets.
The state actively participated in the development of internal commerce through several regulatory measures. By protecting road and riverine networks, rulers ensured that merchants could transport goods with minimal risk. Additionally, the administration established market regulations and collected transit duties, creating a structured environment that supported the flow of commodities between major production centers and various regional marketplaces throughout the subcontinent.

287. (C) They were backed by states with political and military goals.
European traders differed from traditional merchant groups due to their unique organizational nature. Rather than being simple commercial entities, they operated as state-backed enterprises with broader ambitions. These powers utilized their naval strength and military resources to secure trade advantages and establish political influence. This approach fundamentally altered existing maritime trade patterns, as they pursued both economic profit and territorial dominance.

288. (B) major trade centers and port cities.
Locations such as Surat, Calicut, and Hughli served as critical nodes in the medieval economic network. These bustling coastal hubs functioned as primary ports for international commerce, connecting the Indian subcontinent with markets in Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Their strategic positions allowed them to develop into major centers of trade where diverse commodities were exchanged between local and foreign merchants.

289. (D) controlling the maritime trade of spices and other commodities.
The arrival of European powers marked a significant shift in India's external commercial relations. These entities were particularly focused on dominating the highly profitable spice trade and other high-value goods. By using their naval superiority to control sea lanes and ports, they sought to establish a monopoly over the maritime routes that linked India's productive regions with the consumer markets of the West.

290. (A) It was a combination of land-based caravans and maritime vessels.
Medieval commerce was supported by a transport infrastructure that utilized both land and water routes. For internal trade across the vast subcontinent, merchants primarily relied on caravans and a network of roads. For external trade, a variety of sea-going vessels were used to traverse the oceans. Together, these systems were sufficiently developed to manage the extensive movement of goods despite their relatively slow speed.

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(A) The style of the Bengal Sultanate, using brick and terracotta ornamentation.
(B) The architecture of the Roman Empire.
(C) The Gothic style of European cathedrals.
(D) The standardized style of modern government buildings.

59. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Many saints of the medieval period, like Kabir and Ravidas, came from lower-caste backgrounds.
Reason (R) : A key aspect of the Bhakti movement was its challenge to the rigid social hierarchy of the caste system.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

60. Mughal gardens like the Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir and the gardens of the Taj Mahal are classic examples of the:
(A) Rock-cut garden style.
(B) Zen garden style.
(C) English landscape garden style.
(D) Charbagh style.

61. What does 'Khanqah' mean in the context of Sufism?
(A) A Sufi shrine or tomb.
(B) The hospice or center for a Sufi order, led by a master.
(C) A specific mystical doctrine.
(D) A collection of Sufi poetry.

62. The 'Nirguna' stream of the Bhakti movement focused on the worship of:
(A) God with form and attributes, like Rama or Krishna.
(B) The pantheon of Vedic deities.
(C) A formless, attributeless God.
(D) The divine feminine power (Shakti).

63. Which female saint from Kashmir is known for her mystical verses called 'Vakhs'?
(A) Mirabai
(B) Andal
(C) Akka Mahadevi
(D) Lalleshwari (Lal Ded)

64. Match the social classes in List I with their descriptions in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Social Class)
P. Ruling Class
Q. Ulemas
R. Mercantile Class
S. Artisans
List II: (Description)
1. Traders, bankers, money-lenders
2. Potters, weavers, blacksmiths
3. Nobles, mansabdars, jagirdars
4. Theologians, jurists, qazis
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

65. The primary building material for many of Akbar's major constructions at Agra and Fatehpur Sikri was:
(A) Red Sandstone
(B) White Marble
(C) Polished Granite
(D) Glazed Tiles

66. What was the most significant impact of the Bhakti and Sufi saints on the religious life of medieval India?
(A) They strengthened the hold of orthodox Brahmanism and the Ulema.
(B) They made religion more personal, emotional, and accessible to the common people.
(C) They led to the complete eradication of all ritualistic practices.
(D) They encouraged religious conflict and division.

67. Which of the following is a key practice taught by Guru Nanak?
(A) Ritual bathing in sacred rivers
(B) Naam Japo (meditating on God's name)
(C) Idol worship
(D) Pilgrimage to specific holy sites

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68. In Rajput society, the concept of 'Saka' and 'Jauhar' was associated with:
(A) A final, desperate fight to the death by men and collective self-immolation by women in the face of certain defeat.
(B) Agricultural festivals.
(C) Marriage and succession rituals.
(D) The collection of land revenue.

69. Consider the following regarding the position of women in medieval India:
1. The 'Zanana' system promoted their free and open participation in public lif(E)
2. The 'Devadasi' system was associated with temple servic(E)
3. Some women, like Razia Sultan, held significant political power.
4. Women saints like Mirabai challenged conventional social norms through their devotion.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 2, 3 and 4
(D) All of the above

70. The development of music, particularly the creation of the sitar and the fusion genre of Khayal, is often attributed to which medieval figure?
(A) Tansen
(B) Baiju Bawra
(C) Swami Haridas
(D) Amir Khusrau

71. The Qutub Minar complex in Delhi is a prime example of:
(A) Early Mughal architecture.
(B) Maratha fort architecture.
(C) Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate (Indo-Islamic).
(D) Pre-Islamic Rajput architecture.

72. The Sufi belief in 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' (Unity of Being) is a philosophical concept that posits:
(A) A strict separation between God and His creation.
(B) The idea that all existence is a manifestation of divine reality.
(C) The necessity of multiple gods for different functions.
(D) The supremacy of the political ruler over the religious head.

73. The 'Saguna' stream of the Bhakti movement involved devotion to:
(A) An abstract, formless divine principle.
(B) Ancestral spirits and nature deities.
(C) The Guru as the ultimate reality.
(D) A personal God with specific attributes and form, such as Krishna or Rama.

74. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The teachings of Guru Gobind Singh led to the formalization of a distinct Sikh identity.
Reason (R) : He established the Khalsa, a community of initiated "saint-soldiers," with a specific code of conduct and external symbols.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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75. Which social group formed the backbone of the rural economy in medieval India?
(A) The Ulemas
(B) The Mercantile and Professional Classes
(C) The Cultivators
(D) The Ruling Class

76. The tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah in Agra is significant in the development of Mughal architecture because:
(A) It is the first Mughal structure built completely of white marble and making extensive use of pietra dura.
(B) It was the first major structure built entirely of red sandstone.
(C) It features the largest dome ever constructed in India.
(D) It is an example of Maratha fort architecture.

77. Who was the first Guru of the Sikhs and the founder of Sikhism?
(A) Guru Gobind Singh
(B) Guru Arjan Dev

(C) Guru Tegh Bahadur
(D) Guru Nanak Dev

78. The primary characteristic of Shaktism is the:
(A) Veneration of male deities exclusively.
(B) Worship of the divine feminine principle, or Devi.
(C) Practice of non-violence in all circumstances.
(D) Rejection of all some forms of idol worship.

79. The term 'Sufi' is generally believed to have been derived from the Arabic word 'suf', which means:
(A) Purity, referring to the spiritual purity they sought.
(B) Knowledge, referring to their mystical insights.
(C) Wool, referring to the coarse woolen garments worn by early ascetics.
(D) Bench, referring to the followers who sat on benches outside the Prophet's mosque.

80. Consider the following statements regarding social classification in medieval India:
1. The 'Ruling Class' included nobles, jagirdars, and mansabdars.
2. The 'Ulemas' were influential Islamic scholars and jurists.
3. The 'Mercantile Class' consisted of traders, bankers (sarrafs), and brokers (dalals).
4. 'Artisans' were primarily involved in agricultur(E)
5. 'Rajput society' was structured around clan and lineag(E)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

81. The Taj Mahal, a masterpiece of Mughal architecture, was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of:
(A) His wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
(B) His father, Jahangir.
(C) His favorite daughter, Jahanara.
(D) The Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti.

82. The 'Basohli' and 'Kangra' styles are associated with which school of painting?
(A) Mughal School
(B) Pahari School
(C) Deccani School
(D) Rajasthani School

83. A significant contribution of the Sufi orders to the cultural life of medieval India was:
(A) The promotion of regional languages and musical forms like Qawwali.
(B) The enforcement of a rigid and orthodox interpretation of Islam.
(C) The discouragement of any interaction between Hindus and Muslims.
(D) The construction of massive, fortified military structures.

84. The 'Varkari' sect, with its emphasis on pilgrimage to Pandharpur and devotion to Vithoba, is a prominent tradition within the Bhakti movement of:
(A) Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Assam

85. Arrange the following in the correct chronological order of their establishment or compilation:
1. The Chishti Order in India
2. The founding of the Khalsa
3. The compilation of the Adi Granth
4. The Virashaiva movement under Basavanna

(A) 1, 4, 3, 2
(B) 4, 1, 3, 2
(C) 2, 3, 1, 4
(D) 3, 4, 2, 1

86. Which one of the following was NOT a major religious group in medieval India?
(A) Hindus
(B) Mormons
(C) Muslims
(D) Sikhs

87. In rural society, who were the 'Pahi-kashtas'?
(A) Resident peasants who cultivated their own ancestral or hereditary lands.
(B) Landless agricultural laborers working for daily wages in the village.
(C) Non-resident cultivators who tilled land in a village other than their own.
(D) Local moneylenders and grain merchants

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(C) Religious and ceremonial
(D) Open and symbolic

151. Which Sufi saint was known as 'Ganj-i-Shakar' (Treasury of Sugar) due to his sweet nature?
(A) Nizamuddin Auliya
(B) Bakhtiyar Kaki
(C) Salim Chishti
(D) Baba Farid

152. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Bhakti movement was not a single, unified phenomenon but a series of movements that unfolded over centuries across India.
Reason (R) : It had different regional expressions, leaders, and focused on various deities, although core themes of devotion and social critique were common.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

153. What was the impact of women saints on medieval Indian society?
(A) They provided an alternative spiritual path for women and often challenged social conventions through their lives and works.
(B) They reinforced traditional patriarchal norms and the seclusion of women.
(C) They had no impact as their voices were suppressed.
(D) They exclusively focused on converting people to a new, single religion.

154. What was the primary basis of the wealth and power of the 'ruling class' in medieval India?
(A) Control over trade and commerce.
(B) Religious authority and leadership.
(C) Control over land and the right to collect revenue from it.
(D) Industrial production.

155. The 'Jajmani system' sometimes seen in medieval rural society refers to:
(A) A system of revenue collection by the state.
(B) The judicial system administered by the Ulemas.
(C) The military organization of Rajput clans.
(D) A system of reciprocal exchange of services and goods between different caste groups (e.g., cultivators and artisans).

156. The practice of building magnificent tombs for rulers and nobles in medieval India, such as the Taj Mahal or Humayun's Tomb, reflects:
(A) A belief in the impermanence of life and the futility of material things.
(B) The desire to create lasting memorials that symbolized power, piety, and dynastic legacy.
(C) A legal requirement under Islamic law.
(D) A tradition borrowed from South Indian temple architecture.

157. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the musical development during the medieval period?
(A) Royal patronage of music.
(B) Synthesis of Perso-Arabic and Indian traditions.
(C) The complete abandonment of traditional Indian classical music (Dhrupad).
(D) The development of new ragas and forms like Khayal and Tarana.

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158. The regional architectural style of Gujarat is known for its:
(A) Use of brick and terracotta plaques.
(B) Massive, unadorned fortresses.
(C) Large, sloping bamboo roofs.
(D) Delicate and ornate stone carving, seen in its mosques and step-wells.

159. The 'pir' or 'murshid' in Sufism is the:
(A) Spiritual master or guide.
(B) Disciple or follower.
(C) Shrine of a dead saint.
(D) Collection of the master's teachings.

160. The Lingayat or Virashaiva movement, founded by Basavanna, originated in which region?
(A) Bengal
(B) Karnataka
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Maharashtra

(C) A raised platform for making announcements.
(D) A water tank within a temple complex.

98. Maratha forts often included a 'Balekilla', which was the:
(A) Main gateway to the fort.
(B) The lowest level of fortification.
(C) A large water reservoir.
(D) The innermost, most strongly defended citadel on the highest point.

99. The Sufi practice of 'Ziyarat' refers to:
(A) A pilgrimage to the tomb of a revered saint.
(B) A period of silent, solitary meditation.
(C) The recital of the Quran in a specific melodic form.
(D) The act of charitable giving to the poor.

100. Consider the following statements about the Sikh Movement:
1. It was founded by Guru Gobind Singh.
2. The Adi Granth includes compositions of Sikh Gurus as well as other Bhakti and Sufi saints.
3. The Khalsa was established as a purely spiritual and non-martial community.
4. The teachings emphasize monotheism and social equality.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) 2, 3 and 4

101. The 'Saguna' Bhakti saint who popularized the worship of Lord Rama and is the author of the 'Ramcharitmanas' is:
(A) Kabir
(B) Surdas
(C) Tulsidas
(D) Mirabai

102. The ruling class of the Mughal empire was organized through the:
(A) Mansabdari system
(B) Caste system
(C) Varna system
(D) Ulema system

103. Which of the following best describes the economic status of artisans in medieval rural society?
(A) Wealthy landowners who employed groups of cultivators to work fields.
(B) Independent merchants operating purely outside the local village system.
(C) Administrative officials appointed to oversee the quality of village crafts.
(D) Local providers compensated via harvest shares or specific land grants.

104. The final form of the Sikh holy scripture, which is accorded the status of the living Guru, is called the:
(A) Adi Granth
(B) Guru Granth Sahib
(C) Dasam Granth
(D) Janamsakhi

105. A major theme in the paintings of the Pahari schools, such as Kangra, is:
(A) The depiction of historical battles and sieges.
(B) Naturalistic portraits of emperors and nobles.
(C) The lyrical and romantic tales of Radha and Krishna.
(D) Geometric and abstract patterns.

106. The style of architecture that uses pillars, beams, and lintels for support is known as the:
(A) Arcuate style
(B) Doric style
(C) Corinthian style
(D) Trabeate style

107. Which of the following is an example of a famous Mughal Garden?
(A) The Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar
(B) The Lodhi Garden in Delhi
(C) The Brindavan Gardens in Mysore
(D) The Hanging Gardens of Mumbai

108. The Sufi concept of 'Tawakkul' emphasizes:
(A) The importance of music in worship.
(B) Absolute trust and reliance on God.
(C) The need for a spiritual guide (Pir).
(D) The annihilation of the self (fana).

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providing credit to cultivators.

88. The main objective of Madarasa education was to produce:
(A) Skilled artisans and craftsmen.
(B) Warriors and military commanders.
(C) Farmers with knowledge of new agricultural techniques.
(D) Literate and religiously educated individuals to serve the state and society.

89. The architectural style of the Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur is a prime example of:
(A) Regional Indo-Islamic architecture (Deccan).
(B) Imperial Mughal architecture.
(C) Rajasthani temple architecture.
(D) Maratha fort architecture.

90. Match the architectural structures in List I with their locations in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Structure)
P. Taj Mahal
Q. Buland Darwaza
R. Gol Gumbaz
S. Charminar
List II: (Location)
1. Fatehpur Sikri
2. Hyderabad
3. Agra
4. Bijapur
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

91. Which Sufi order was known for its close and often prosperous relationship with the state, in contrast to the Chishtis' general avoidance of state patronage?
(A) The Chishti order
(B) The Suhrawardi order
(C) The Qadiri order
(D) The Naqshbandi order

92. The great woman saint Andal, one of the twelve Alvars, composed devotional poetry in Tamil dedicated to:
(A) Lord Vishnu
(B) Lord Shiva
(C) The Goddess Parvati
(D) Lord Ganesha

93. The concept of 'sewa' (selfless service) is a fundamental tenet of which religious movement?
(A) The Bhakti Movement
(B) The Sufi Movement
(C) The Sikh Movement
(D) The Nathpanthi Movement

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94. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Mughal school of painting developed a highly sophisticated and naturalistic style of portraiture.
Reason (R) : Mughal emperors, particularly Jahangir, were keen patrons of art and desired realistic depictions of themselves, their court, and the natural world.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

95. In medieval India, the term 'professional classes' would include occupations such as:
(A) Petty chieftains and village headmen.
(B) Cultivators and non-cultivating laborers.
(C) High-ranking nobles and military commanders.
(D) Physicians (hakims), teachers, and scribes.

96. The practice of 'Purdah' (veiling) for women became more widespread in many sections of Indian society during the medieval period, particularly among the:
(A) Peasantry in rural areas.
(B) Tribal communities in forest regions.
(C) Upper classes and aristocracy in urban centers.
(D) Female ascetics and saints.

97. An important feature of Indo-Islamic architecture is the 'jaali' which is a:
(A) Large arched gateway.
(B) Perforated screen with ornamental patterns.

(B) The Ulemas
(C) The artisan class
(D) The mercantile and professional class (specifically moneylenders/bankers)

120. A 'petty chieftain' in the context of rural society would best be described as a:
(A) Landless labourer
(B) Village priest
(C) Small-scale intermediary zamindar
(D) Travelling merchant

121. What was the 'Devadasi' system in its original form?
(A) A system of female education focused on religious texts.
(B) A practice of dedicating young girls to the service of a temple deity through a symbolic marriage.
(C) A guild of women traders in coastal towns.
(D) The council of women advisors to the queen.

122. The curriculum of a 'maktab', as opposed to a 'madrasa', in medieval India focused on:
(A) Advanced philosophy and theology.
(B) Military science and strategy.
(C) Agricultural techniques.
(D) Basic literacy and religious instruction for children.

123. The use of naturalism in depicting flora and fauna reached a high point in Mughal painting during the reign of:
(A) Jahangir
(B) Akbar
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

124. The main structural difference between traditional Indian temple architecture and Indo-Islamic architecture is the contrast between:
(A) Wood and stone construction
(B) Single-story and multi-story buildings
(C) Trabeate (pillar-beam) and Arcuate (arch-dome) systems
(D) Decorated and undecorated surfaces

125. Match the terms related to Sikhism listed in List I with their meanings in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Term)
P. Sangat
Q. Pangat
R. Khalsa
S. Gurudwara
List II: (Meaning)
1. Communal kitchen/meal
2. The 'doorway to the Guru'; Sikh place of worship
3. Congregation for worship
4. The community of initiated Sikhs
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

126. The Chishti Sufi order was established in India by:
(A) Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya
(B) Nizamuddin Auliya
(C) Baba Farid Ganj-i-Shakar
(D) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

127. The philosophy of Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism), a major influence on Vaishnava bhakti, was propounded by:
(A) Shankara
(B) Ramanuja
(C) Madhva
(D) Basavanna

128. What distinguishes the 'Nirguna' Bhakti saints from the 'Saguna' Bhakti saints?
(A) Nirguna saints were all from the South, while Saguna saints were all from the North.
(B) Nirguna saints wrote in Sanskrit, while Saguna saints wrote in regional languages.
(C) Nirguna saints worshipped a formless God, while Saguna saints worshipped God with form.
(D) Nirguna saints accepted the caste system, while Saguna saints rejected it.

129. The compilation of the 'Adi Granth' was a significant step in the development of the Sikh community because it:
(A) Established a military code for the Sikhs.
(B) Formally declared a break from all Hindu traditions.
(C) Outlined a system of political governance.
(D) Created a standardized and authoritative scripture for the faith.

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109. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Many Bhakti saints used regional languages to compose their hymns and teachings.
Reason (R) : This made their message more accessible to the common people, bypassing the scholarly elite who used Sanskrit.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

110. Who was the most famous woman saint of the Bhakti movement in Rajasthan, who considered Lord Krishna her divine husband?
(A) Akka Mahadevi
(B) Mirabai
(C) Lalleshwari
(D) Andal

111. Consider the following regarding art and architecture in medieval India:
1. Indo-Islamic architecture is a blend of Indian and Islamic structural techniques.
2. The Mughals introduced the 'Charbagh' style of gardens to Indi(A)
3. Pietra dura is the technique of inlaying semi-precious stones into marbl(E)
4. Maratha forts were primarily built in open plains for easy access.
5. The Rajasthani school of painting focused exclusively on religious themes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

112. The term 'Ulema' (plural of Alim) literally means:
(A) The Rulers
(B) The Warriors
(C) The Merchants
(D) The Learned Ones

113. The Zanana or women's quarters in a royal or aristocratic household were often characterized by:
(A) Complete freedom of movement and social interaction.
(B) A lack of any cultural or artistic activities.
(C) Seclusion and the observance of purdah.
(D) The mandatory practice of a martial lifestyle.

114. The 'Kishangarh school', famous for its stylized depiction of Radha and Krishna, is a part of which major school of painting?
(A) Mughal School
(B) Pahari School
(C) Garhwali School
(D) Rajasthani School

115. Arrange the following architectural constructions in correct chronological order:
1. Taj Mahal
2. Qutub Minar (initial construction)
3. Fatehpur Sikri complex
4. Humayun's Tomb

(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

116. The tomb of a Sufi saint is known as a:
(A) Khanqah
(B) Dargah
(C) Silsila
(D) Madrasa

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117. The Bhakti movement in North India was significantly popularized by saints like:
(A) Ramananda, Kabir, and Guru Nanak
(B) The Alvars and Nayanars
(C) Basavanna and his followers
(D) Shankaradeva and Chaitanya

118. The holy book 'Adi Granth' was compiled under the supervision of:
(A) Guru Nanak Dev
(B) Guru Gobind Singh
(C) Guru Arjan Dev
(D) Banda Singh Bahadur

119. In medieval Indian society, a 'sahukar' or 'sarraf' belonged to which class?
(A) The ruling class

141. The primary role of the 'Ulemas' in the state was to:
(A) Command the army.
(B) Collect land revenue.
(C) Manage trade and commerce.
(D) Advise the ruler on Islamic law and act as judges (qazis).

142. A 'cultivator' who owned the land he tilled in a medieval village was known as a:
(A) Pahi-kashta
(B) Khud-kashta
(C) Kami
(D) Muqaddam

143. Which statement best summarizes the overall development of education in medieval India?
(A) There was a complete decline in all forms of learning.
(B) Education was standardized under a single, secular, state-controlled curriculum.
(C) A parallel system of traditional pathshalas and Islamic maktabs/madarasas co-existed.
(D) Only military and vocational education were patronized.

144. Consider the following saints and their primary mode of devotion or teaching:
1. Mirabai - Devotional songs (bhajans) for Krishn(A)
2. Kabir - Syncretic teachings challenging both orthodox Hinduism and Islam.
3. Chaitanya - Ecstatic kirtans and devotion to Krishn(A)
4. Guru Nanak - Emphasis on a formless God (Nirguna) and social equality.
5. Akka Mahadevi - Vachanas expressing devotion to Shiv(A)

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

145. The tomb of which Sufi saint in Ajmer is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in India?
(A) Moinuddin Chishti
(B) Nizamuddin Auliya
(C) Baba Farid
(D) Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki

146. The Vaishnava Bhakti movement in Assam was popularized by:
(A) Chaitanya
(B) Shankaradeva
(C) Ramananda
(D) Narsinh Mehta

147. What is the significance of the creation of the 'Khalsa' by Guru Gobind Singh?
(A) It marked the end of the line of human Gurus.
(B) It gave the Sikh community a formal, disciplined, and distinct religio-military identity.
(C) It led to the compilation of the Adi Granth.
(D) It was the first time Sikhs were organized into congregations.

148. The Humayun's Tomb in Delhi is architecturally significant because it was:
(A) The first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
(B) The first structure built entirely of white marble.
(C) An example of pre-Mughal Lodi architecture.
(D) A fortress rather than a tomb.

149. Match the painting schools listed in List I with their prominent features or centers in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (School)
P. Mughal
Q. Rajasthani (Mewar)
R. Pahari (Kangra)
S. Garhwali
List II: (Feature/Centre)
1. Lyrical depiction of Radha-Krishna themes
2. Mola Ram as a famous painter
3. Naturalistic portraiture and court scenes
4. Bold colours and depiction of local heroes like Maharana Pratap
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

150. Maratha forts like Raigad and Pratapgad exemplify architecture that is primarily:
(A) Ornate and decorative
(B) Functional and defensive

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130. Consider the following regarding Rajput society:
1. It was organized on the basis of kinship and clan lineages.
2. The code of honor and martial prowess were highly value(D)
3. The economy was primarily based on trade and commerce, not lan(D)
4. Women were held in esteem for upholding family honor, often through practices like Jauhar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4
(D) All of the above

131. The Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri was built by Akbar to commemorate his victory over:
(A) Bengal
(B) Mewar
(C) Gujarat
(D) Kashmir

132. The term 'zamindar' in the context of medieval rural society could refer to:
(A) Only the emperor's immediate family.
(B) A wide range of landholders, from petty chieftains to large autonomous rulers.
(C) A landless agricultural laborer.
(D) A member of the artisan class.

133. The 'Devadasi' system was most prevalent in which region of India?
(A) The Himalayan foothills
(B) The Thar Desert
(C) The plains of Punjab
(D) Southern India and parts of the Deccan

134. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) : Mughal architecture under Shah Jahan is often described as 'feminine' and more delicate compared to the 'masculine' and robust style of Akbar's reign.

Reason (R) : Shah Jahan's period saw a shift from the use of red sandstone to white marble, with fine carvings and pietra dura inlay.

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

135. The 'Pahari' school of painting literally means the painting of the:
(A) Courts
(B) Deserts
(C) Hills
(D) Plains

136. The Sufi practice of controlling breath, known as 'habs-i dam', shows influence from which Indian tradition?
(A) Ayurvedic medicine
(B) Yogic practices (Pranayama)
(C) The caste system
(D) The Jajmani system

137. Which Bhakti saint from Bengal was known for his ecstatic devotion to Krishna, often expressed through 'kirtans' (congregational singing and dancing)?
(A) Ramananda
(B) Kabir
(C) Namdev
(D) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

138. The Sikh institution of 'Langar' or the community kitchen, promoted the idea of:
(A) Equality and service, as everyone eats together regardless of caste or creed.
(B) Social hierarchy and status.
(C) The importance of ascetic fasting.
(D) The supremacy of the priestly class.

139. In the Mughal administrative hierarchy, who was at the apex of the ruling class?
(A) The chief Qazi
(B) The chief of the Ulemas
(C) The Emperor
(D) The leading merchant of the empire

140. Which architectural feature is NOT typically associated with Mughal architecture?
(A) Tall shikhara (towers) of the Nagara style
(B) Double domes
(C) Charbagh garden layouts
(D) Pietra dura inlay work

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161. Consider the following statements about education in medieval India:
1. 'Maktabs' provided primary education, while 'Madarasas' were centres of higher learning.
2. The curriculum was entirely secular, with no religious studies.
3. Royal patronage and private endowments were crucial for the funding of educational institutions.
4. Education was universally accessible to all, including women and the lowest castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

162. The ten Sikh Gurus, beginning with Guru Nanak and ending with Guru Gobind Singh, are collectively seen as:
(A) One spirit or divine light manifesting in ten different bodies.
(B) Ten different prophets with different messages.
(C) A political dynasty of rulers.
(D) A series of social reformers with no religious connection.

163. The social structure of Rajput society was predominantly:
(A) Egalitarian
(B) Matriarchal
(C) Patriarchal and clan-based
(D) Mercantile

164. The 'Zanana' apartments in Mughal palaces were:
(A) Open to all visitors.
(B) The administrative offices of the emperor.
(C) The barracks for the imperial guards.
(D) The private and secluded residential areas for the royal women.

165. The painting style that flourished in the hill states of the Punjab Himalayas is broadly termed:
(A) Mughal painting
(B) Rajasthani painting
(C) Pahari painting
(D) Deccani painting

166. Indo-Islamic architecture is often called 'arcuate' because it is based on the structural principle of the:
(A) Pillar and beam
(B) Arch and dome
(C) Rock-cut cave
(D) Wooden framework

167. The famous rock-cut Kailasa temple at Ellora, while pre-medieval, is a grand example of which tradition?
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Buddhism
(C) Jainism
(D) Shaivism

168. Which Sufi order, known for its orthodox and rigid adherence to Sharia, was supported by Emperor Aurangzeb?
(A) Naqshbandi
(B) Chishti
(C) Suhrawardi
(D) Qadiri

169. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Bhakti movement helped in the development of regional languages like Braj, Awadhi, Bengali, and Marathi.
Reason (R) : The Bhakti saints chose to compose and sing in the language of the common people to make their message of devotion widely understood.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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170. The concept of 'Kirat Karo, Naam Japo, Vand Chhako' (Earn an honest living, meditate on God's name, share with others) summarizes the core ethical teachings of:
(A) The Sufi saints
(B) The Virashaiva movement
(C) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
(D) Guru Nanak Dev

215. The 'Panch Mahal' at Fatehpur Sikri is an example of architecture influenced by:
(A) Persian garden design.
(B) European church architecture.
(C) Maratha fort design.
(D) Buddhist Viharas (monasteries).

216. The musical form of 'Qawwali' is intrinsically linked with the devotional practices at:
(A) Hindu temples
(B) Sufi shrines
(C) Buddhist monasteries
(D) Sikh Gurudwaras

217. The 'Muraqqa' or album, containing collections of paintings and calligraphy, was a popular art form during the reign of:
(A) Jahangir
(B) Akbar
(C) Babur
(D) Ibrahim Lodi

218. The Jama Masjid at Mandu, with its massive scale and austere grandeur, is a fine specimen of which regional architectural style?
(A) Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) Malwa
(D) Jaunpur

219. The concept of a spiritual guide or 'Pir' is essential in which tradition?
(A) Shaktism
(B) Sufism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Shaivism

220. Match the architectural styles listed in List I with the representative monuments in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Style)
P. Early Delhi Sultanate
Q. Mughal (Shah Jahan)
R. Regional (Deccan)
S. Regional (Bengal)
List II: (Monument)
1. Adina Mosque, Pandua
2. Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur
3. Qutub Minar, Delhi
4. Taj Mahal, Agra
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

221. The poetry of the Alvars in South India expressed intense devotion to:
(A) Shiva
(B) Vishnu
(C) Devi
(D) Ganesha

222. The term 'Khalsa' literally means:
(A) The Pure
(B) The Learned
(C) The Warrior
(D) The Follower

223. What was the primary role of the 'mercantile class' in the medieval economy?
(A) Cultivating land and producing food grains.
(B) Interpreting religious law.
(C) Facilitating trade, commerce, and credit.
(D) Serving in the military.

224. The presence of monumental tombs and mosques across North India is a testament to the architectural patronage of:
(A) The Maratha Confederacy
(B) The Rajput kingdoms
(C) The Chola Empire
(D) The Delhi Sultans and the Mughals

225. A key ideological conflict for some Sufis and the orthodox Ulema was over the issue of:
(A) The belief in one God.
(B) The need to pay taxes to the state.
(C) The use of music (Sama) in religious gatherings.
(D) The importance of the Quran.

226. The Bhakti saint who was a contemporary of the Mughal emperor Akbar and wrote the 'Ramcharitmanas' was:
(A) Kabir
(B) Tulsidas
(C) Surdas
(D) Ramananda

227. Which of the following is NOT a feature of a typical Maratha fort?
(A) Strategic hilltop location

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(A) Emphasis on devotion.
(B) Use of regional languages.
(C) Complicated ritualism and the dominance of the priestly class.
(D) Monotheistic beliefs.

183. The social structure in medieval India was generally:
(A) Egalitarian and fluid.
(B) Hierarchical, based on factors like caste, occupation, and religion.
(C) Matriarchal across all communities.
(D) A two-class system of only rulers and the ruled.

184. The 'Zanana' system had the greatest impact on women of which social strata?
(A) The rural peasantry
(B) The urban artisan class
(C) Tribal communities
(D) The royal and aristocratic families

185. Based on the architectural features described, identify the style of the following building: A structure with arches, a large central dome, tall minarets, and intricate geometric latticework.
(A) Indo-Islamic architecture
(B) Traditional Hindu temple architecture (Nagara style)
(B) Mauryan palace architecture
(D) Maratha fort architecture

186. The famous musician Tansen was a jewel in the court of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Humayun
(B) Akbar
(C) Jahangir
(D) Shah Jahan

187. The Qadiri order of Sufis was introduced in India by:
(A) Moinuddin Chishti
(B) Shah Nimatullah and Makhdum Muhammad Jilani
(C) Baha-ud-din Zakariya
(D) Khwaja Baqi Billah

188. Match the women saints listed in List I with the deities they were devoted to in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Saint)
P. Mirabai
Q. Akka Mahadevi
R. Andal
S. Janabai
List II: (Deity)
1. Lord Shiva (Chennamallikarjuna)
2. Lord Krishna (as Vithoba)
3. Lord Krishna (as Giridhar)
4. Lord Vishnu (as Ranganatha)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

189. The term 'Sufi' is most likely derived from the Arabic word 'suf', meaning:
(A) Wool
(B) Wisdom
(C) Purity
(D) Light

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190. What was the 'Khalsa'?
(A) The Sikh holy scripture.
(B) A special tax levied by the Gurus.
(C) The community of initiated 'pure' Sikhs created by Guru Gobind Singh.
(D) The court of the Sikh Guru.

191. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The social fabric of medieval India was complex and consisted of various hierarchical groups.
Reason (R) : Society was broadly classified into the ruling class, religious groups like the Ulemas, mercantile and professional classes, and a vast rural society of cultivators and artisans.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

192. What was the primary occupation of the majority of the population in medieval rural society?
(A) Artisanal production
(B) Cultivation (agriculture)
(C) Trade

(B) Rajasthani painting
(C) Pahari painting
(D) Deccani painting

238. What was the relationship between many Sufi saints and the orthodox Ulema?
(A) It was often marked by tension and disagreement over issues like music (Sama) and mystical interpretations.
(B) It was always harmonious and cooperative.
(C) The Ulema were the disciples of the Sufi saints.
(D) They were two names for the same group of people.

239. The 'Vachana' literature of the 12th century, which challenged caste and ritualism, is associated with which movement?
(A) The Nayanars of Tamil Nadu
(B) The Alvars of Tamil Nadu
(C) The Virashaiva/Lingayat movement of Karnataka
(D) The Bauls of Bengal

240. The social ideal promoted by Guru Nanak's teachings was one of:
(A) A society rigidly divided by caste and occupation.
(B) A community of ascetics who have renounced the world.
(C) A military society focused on conquest.
(D) An active, householder's life combined with spiritual devotion and ethical conduct.

241. Consider the following regarding the position of women in medieval India:
1. The 'Zanana' system enforced strict seclusion on women of the upper classes.
2. The 'Devadasi' system dedicated women to temple service, a practice which later declined into exploitation.
3. Sati was the practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyr(E)
4. Women like Mirabai and Lal Ded became influential spiritual figures.
5. All women, regardless of class or religion, enjoyed equal property rights with men.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

242. The curriculum of higher learning in a Madarasa would most likely include the study of:
(A) The Vedas and Puranas.
(B) The Quran, Hadith, Fiqh (jurisprudence), logic, and philosophy.
(C) The Tripitaka.
(D) The Guru Granth Sahib.

243. The Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh in Kashmir are classic examples of:
(A) Maratha fort gardens
(B) Rajput palace gardens
(C) Mughal gardens
(D) Buddhist monastery gardens

244. The architecture of the Vijayanagara empire, with its ornate mandapas and gopurams, is best classified as:
(A) Indo-Islamic architecture
(B) Mughal architecture
(C) A regional Indo-Islamic style of the Deccan
(D) A regional Hindu architectural style of the South

245. The 'Nathpanthis', who influenced Kabir, were a group of:
(A) Yogis who stressed meditation and asceticism
(B) Vaishnava bhaktas
(C) Sufis of the Chishti order
(D) Shaiva devotees from the South

246. Match the terms in List I with their descriptions in List II and select the correct option.
List I: (Term)
P. Silsila
Q. Bhakti
R. Khalsa
S. Ulema
List II: (Description)
1. Intense devotion to a personal god
2. The body of Muslim religious scholars
3. A Sufi spiritual lineage or order
4. The community of initiated Sikhs
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

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204. The 'pahikasht' cultivator in medieval rural society was one who:
(A) Owned the land he tilled.
(B) Cultivated land on a temporary, contractual basis in a village where he did not reside.
(C) Was a landless laborer.
(D) Was a village official responsible for revenue collection.

205. The 'Zanana' system, or the seclusion of women, was a feature primarily of:
(A) Lower-caste rural society.
(B) The upper classes and aristocracy.
(C) All social classes equally.
(D) Only non-Muslim communities.

206. In medieval India, higher education in Islamic sciences was imparted in:
(A) Madarasas
(B) Pathshalas
(C) Gurukuls
(D) Viharas

207. A painting characterized by delicate lines, muted colors, and lyrical themes, often depicting romantic scenes in a hilly landscape, would belong to the:
(A) Mughal School (Akbar period)
(B) Rajasthani School (Mewar)
(C) Pahari School (Kangra)
(D) Deccani School (Bijapur)

208. The main difference between Indo-Islamic and older Indian architecture is the former's emphasis on:
(A) The use of wood.
(B) Rock-cut structures.
(C) Multi-storied pyramidal towers.
(D) Arches and domes.

209. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Mughal gardens were not just pleasure parks but were also symbolic representations of paradise.
Reason (R) : The 'Charbagh' layout with its four-part design, flowing water, and fruit trees was intended to replicate the Quranic vision of paradise.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

210. The defence of Maratha forts was primarily based on:
(A) Their large, open design.
(B) Their strategic use of difficult hill terrain.
(C) The use of heavy cannons imported from Europe.
(D) Moats filled with water.

211. Sufi saints believed that a true devotee could attain union with God through:
(A) Intense personal love and devotion.
(B) The pursuit of worldly power.
(C) Strict observance of external rituals alone.
(D) Intellectual debates on theology.

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212. The Nayanars of South India were a group of saints devoted to:
(A) Lord Vishnu
(B) The Goddess Devi
(C) Lord Shiva
(D) Lord Brahma

213. The practice of 'Jauhar' in Rajput society was:
(A) A festival celebrating a successful harvest.
(B) A ritual for the coronation of a new king.
(C) The system of land distribution within a clan.
(D) The collective self-immolation of women to avoid dishonor by an enemy.

214. Consider the following social groups in medieval India:
1. Ulemas - Islamic theologians and jurists.
2. Mansabdars - The nobility holding military and civil rank in the Mughal system.
3. Sarrafs - Bankers and money-changers.
4. Muqaddams - Village headmen.
5. Pahi-kashtas - Resident owner-cultivators.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

(D) Military service

193. The Mughal emperor who was a connoisseur of painting and claimed he could distinguish the work of different artists in a single composite picture was:
(A) Jahangir
(B) Akbar
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

194. A key difference between Mughal and Rajasthani painting is that:
(A) Mughal painting used only black and white, while Rajasthani painting used vibrant colors.
(B) Mughal painting was abstract, while Rajasthani painting was realistic.
(C) Mughal painting was aristocratic and documentary, while Rajasthani painting was popular and emotional.
(D) Mughal painting was done on walls, while Rajasthani painting was done on paper.

195. The Bibi Ka Maqbara in Aurangabad, a near-replica of the Taj Mahal, is an example of:
(A) The peak of Mughal architectural genius.
(B) A pre-Mughal Sultanate building.
(C) A Maratha royal shrine.
(D) The decline of Mughal architectural standards in the later period.

196. The 'abhangas' of saints like Tukaram and Namdev are associated with the Bhakti tradition in:
(A) Gujarat
(B) Bengal
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Punjab

197. The Chishtis, Suhrawardis, Qadiris, and Naqshbandis are all examples of:
(A) Schools of Islamic law.
(B) Sufi orders (silsilas).
(C) Major clans in Rajput society.
(D) Guilds of merchants in medieval India.

198. The position of women in medieval India was marked by contradictions. Which of the following best illustrates this?
(A) All women had the right to education and property.
(B) Women were considered equal to men in all religious and social matters.
(C) The Devadasi system ensured the economic independence of women across castes.
(D) While practices like Sati and Purdah were prevalent, figures like Razia Sultan wielded power.

199. Consider the following architectural features:
1. Arcuate construction (arches and domes).
2. Trabeate construction (pillars and beams).
3. Use of 'jaalis' (latticed screens).
4. Use of 'shikhara' (curvilinear towers).

Which of these are characteristic features of Indo-Islamic architecture?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

200. The concept of 'pir-murid' relationship is central to Sufism, signifying the bond between:
(A) The ruler and his subject.
(B) The master and the disciple.
(C) The merchant and his client.
(D) The husband and wife.

201. Which Bhakti saint's verses are included in the Sikh scripture, the Adi Granth, indicating a syncretic spiritual environment?
(A) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
(B) Basavanna
(C) Kabir
(D) Shankaradeva

202. The teachings of Guru Nanak are preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib in the form of:
(A) Prose narratives called Sakhis.
(B) A legal code called Rehat Maryada.
(C) Epistles called Hukamnamas.
(D) Poetic hymns called Gurbani or Shabad.

203. The term 'Madad-i-Ma'ash' in the Mughal period referred to:
(A) Tax-free land grants given to religious scholars and institutions.
(B) A military rank.
(C) A tax on trade.
(D) A customs duty at ports.

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(B) Strong fortifications and bastions
(C) A complex system of gateways and secret passages
(D) Elaborate use of white marble and pietra dura

228. Consider the following statements regarding Mughal Painting:
1. It reached its zenith under Emperor Jahangir.
2. It was known for its naturalism, particularly in portraits and depictions of wildlif(E)
3. Themes were exclusively religious and mythological.
4. It had little to no influence from Persian art.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 3 and 4 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

229. The main social impact of the Bhakti movement was the:
(A) Reinforcement of the caste system.
(B) Decline of regional languages.
(C) Promotion of social equality and critique of caste-based discrimination.
(D) Increased power of the orthodox priestly class.

230. The system of 'Maktabs' and 'Madarasas' in medieval India primarily served the educational needs of:
(A) The Muslim community
(B) The Hindu community
(C) The entire population through a unified system
(D) Only the ruling elite

231. The 'Char Minar' is a famous monument and mosque located in which city, representing a regional style of architecture?
(A) Delhi
(B) Agra
(C) Lahore
(D) Hyderabad

232. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) : The women saints of medieval India, through their devotionalism, often subverted traditional patriarchal authority.
Reason (R) : By choosing a divine-lover over a mortal husband and rejecting domestic roles, saints like Akka Mahadevi and Mirabai challenged societal expectations for women.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

233. The Sufi concept of 'baqa' or subsistence is the state that follows 'fana' (annihilation) and signifies:
(A) A return to worldly life.
(B) The death of the physical body.
(C) A spiritual life eternal in and with God.
(D) The establishment of a new Sufi order.

234. In Sikhism, the 'Dasam Granth' is a scripture traditionally attributed to:
(A) Guru Nanak Dev
(B) Guru Arjan Dev
(C) Bhai Gurdas
(D) Guru Gobind Singh

235. In medieval rural society, artisans like blacksmiths and carpenters were crucial because they:
(A) Produced and maintained the tools necessary for agriculture.
(B) Paid the majority of the land revenue.
(C) Formed the largest part of the village population.
(D) Acted as village officials.

236. The 'double dome' was a significant feature of Indo-Islamic architecture because it allowed for:
(A) The building to be much taller.
(B) A grand, high ceiling on the exterior while maintaining a comfortable, proportionate ceiling height inside.
(C) The elimination of all pillars and supports.
(D) The collection of rainwater.

237. The 'Bundi' and 'Kotah' styles are part of the larger classification of:
(A) Mughal painting

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254. Which of the following practices was central to the devotional life of many Sufi orders as mentioned in the text?
(A) The strict observance of Zanana system.
(B) The formal study of military strategy.
(C) The construction of temples and shrines.
(D) The use of music and dance, known as 'sama'.

255. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the social impact of leading Sufi saints?
(A) Their influence was limited to the rural peasant class.
(B) They were primarily concerned with advising the ruling class on governance.
(C) They provided a spiritual and social space inclusive of different social strata and religions.
(D) They focused solely on mystical contemplation, detached from societal concerns.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Parallel to the rise of Sufism, the Bhakti movement emerged as a transformative socio-religious force across medieval India. Characterized by its emphasis on intense personal devotion to a deity, this movement challenged the ritual-laden and caste-based hierarchies of orthodox Brahmanism. The Bhakti movement was not a single, unified phenomenon; rather, it manifested through various streams, prominently including Shaivism (devotion to Shiva), Vaishnavism (devotion to Vishnu and his incarnations), and Shaktism (devotion to the divine feminine or Shakti). Bhakti saints propagated their teachings in vernacular languages, making spiritual knowledge accessible to the common populace, including artisans, peasants, and women, who were traditionally excluded from religious discourse. This linguistic shift was revolutionary, democratizing religion and fostering a rich tradition of regional devotional literature. The movement's core tenets revolved around the idea that salvation could be attained through pure devotion (bhakti), love, and surrender to God, rendering elaborate sacrifices and priestly intermediaries unnecessary. By promoting a path of direct emotional connection with the divine, the Bhakti movement played a pivotal role in reshaping the religious landscape and contributed significantly to the social and cultural integration of diverse communities within the subcontinent.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What was a primary characteristic of the Bhakti movement as described in the passage?
(A) Its strict adherence to Sanskrit as the only religious language.
(B) Its emphasis on intense personal devotion to a chosen deity.
(C) Its focus on complex rituals and sacrifices conducted by priests.
(D) Its exclusive appeal to the ruling and warrior classes.

257. The passage identifies Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Shaktism as prominent streams of which movement?
(A) The Sikh Movement
(B) The Sufi Movement
(C) The Madarasa Education Movement
(D) The Bhakti Movement

258. How did the Bhakti saints make spiritual knowledge more accessible to the masses?
(A) By using vernacular languages in their teachings and compositions.
(B) By establishing formal educational institutions like Madarasas.
(C) By insisting on the mediation of Brahmin priests for all rituals.
(D) By focusing their teachings exclusively on the Ulema and the ruling class.

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259. What major challenge did the Bhakti movement pose to orthodox Brahmanism?
(A) It introduced new deities from foreign lands.
(B) It supported the political authority of the Sultanate.
(C) It questioned caste hierarchies and the necessity of priestly intermediaries.
(D) It promoted the construction of forts over temples.

260. What can be inferred about the social impact of the Bhakti movement from the passage?
(A) It contributed to the democratisation of religion and social integration.
(B) It reinforced the existing social and religious

247. The introduction and popularization of the 'Qawwali' in India is most famously attributed to:
(A) Tansen
(B) Amir Khusrau
(C) Moinuddin Chishti
(D) Kabir

248. The practice of building mosques with large open courtyards (sahns) and prayer halls facing the qibla (direction of Mecca) is a key feature of:
(A) Indo-Islamic architecture
(B) Traditional Hindu Temple architecture
(C) Buddhist Vihara architecture
(D) Maratha fort architecture

249. The concept of 'Ik Onkar' (There is One God) is a central tenet of:
(A) Vaishnavism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Sikhism
(D) Shaktism

250. The social structure of medieval India can best be described as:
(A) A simple two-tiered social system of peasants and rulers.
(B) A complex mosaic of groups defined by status and religion.
(C) An egalitarian society with no functional social hierarchy.
(D) A society dominated exclusively by the wealthy merchant class.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The social organisation of medieval India was profoundly influenced by various religious and social movements, among which the Sufi movement holds a place of prominence. Sufism, representing the mystical dimension of Islam, was not a monolithic entity but comprised several orders or 'silsilas', each with its unique set of beliefs and practices. The central objective of the Sufis was the attainment of direct communion with God, a goal pursued through asceticism, meditation, and devotional practices often involving music and dance (sama). Leading Sufi saints, such as Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and Nizamuddin Auliya, commanded immense respect not only from the masses but also from the ruling elite. Their khanqahs (hospices) became vibrant centres of spiritual guidance and social service, open to people from all strata of society, irrespective of their religious affiliation. This inclusive approach fostered a significant degree of social synchronization, creating a syncretic culture where Hindu and Muslim mystical traditions often found common ground. The Sufis' emphasis on love, humanity, and service acted as a powerful counter-narrative to rigid religious orthodoxy, thereby playing a crucial role in shaping the socio-religious fabric of the period. Their influence permeated local customs, literature, and art, contributing to a more integrated and harmonious social structure.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what was the primary objective of the Sufis?
(A) To establish political dominance over regional rulers.
(B) To achieve direct spiritual communion with God.
(C) To promote a rigid and orthodox interpretation of Islam.
(D) To create a new, independent religious system.

252. The term 'khanqah' in the context of medieval Sufism refers to:
(A) A hospice serving as a centre for spiritual and social activities.
(B) A military encampment for Sufi warriors.
(C) A marketplace exclusively for Muslim traders.
(D) A royal court attended by Sufi saints.

253. What does the passage suggest about the role of Sufism in inter-communal relations?
(A) It created a sharper divide between Hindu and Muslim communities.
(B) It remained exclusively within the confines of the Muslim community.
(C) It fostered social synchronization and cultural syncretism.
(D) It was actively suppressed by both Hindu and Muslim orthodox leaders.

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171. Arrange the following in correct chronological sequence of their appearance or reign:
1. The establishment of the Khals(A)
2. The reign of Akbar.
3. The establishment of the Delhi Sultanat(E)
4. The rule of Shah Jahan.

(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

172. The term 'Ulema' refers to a plural body of 'Alim', who were respected for their knowledge of:
(A) Military strategy
(B) Trade and economics
(C) Medicine and astrology
(D) Islamic scripture and law

173. What does the term 'non-cultivating classes' in a village signify?
(A) The classes that owned all the land but did not cultivate it themselves.
(B) The groups, like artisans and service providers, whose primary occupation was not farming.
(C) Migrant laborers who worked seasonally.
(D) The village chieftain and his family.

174. The 'Jama Masjid' in Delhi, one of India's largest mosques, was built by which Mughal Emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Jahangir
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

175. The 'Gita Govinda', an important text for Vaishnava devotionalism, was written by:
(A) Tulsidas
(B) Mirabai
(C) Surdas
(D) Jayadeva

176. Which Sufi practice involved listening to music to achieve a state of spiritual ecstasy?
(A) Sama (audition or listening)
(B) Zikr (remembrance of God's name)
(C) Fana (annihilation of self)
(D) Ziyarat (pilgrimage)

177. The 'Five K's' (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kachera, Kirpan) are mandatory articles of faith for:
(A) All Sikhs
(B) A member of the Khalsa
(C) A Sufi of the Chishti order
(D) A follower of the Kabirpanth

178. The primary difference between a 'ruling class' noble and a 'mercantile class' trader was their source of status, which was, respectively:
(A) Religious knowledge and military might.
(B) Land revenue grants/rank and commercial profit.
(C) Craft skill and agricultural output.
(D) Hereditary priestly status and cash savings.

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179. The Red Fort in Delhi (Lal Qila) is a prime example of the architecture from the reign of:
(A) Shah Jahan
(B) Akbar
(C) Jahangir
(D) Aurangzeb

180. The distinctive feature of the regional architecture of Bengal was its:
(A) Extensive use of marble and sandstone.
(B) Construction of massive rock-cut temples.
(C) Characteristic curved 'Bangla' roof, adapted from local bamboo huts, and use of brick.
(D) Tall, ornate gateways (gopurams).

181. Consider the following statements about the Sikh Movement:
1. Guru Nanak was the first of the ten Sikh Gurus.
2. The Adi Granth was compiled by Guru Gobind Singh.
3. The Khalsa was founded to create a community of "saint-soldiers".
4. The concept of selfless service is known as 'sewa'.
5. The community meal, 'langar', is open only to Sikhs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 5 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

182. A major criticism leveled by Bhakti saints against orthodox religion was its:

hierarchies.
(C) It led to the decline of regional languages and literature.
(D) It was a politically motivated movement aimed at overthrowing rulers.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The medieval period was distinguished by the profound impact of saints, both from North and South India, who left an indelible mark on the socio-political and religious life of the subcontinent. These saints, emerging from the matrix of the Bhakti movement, championed a form of religion that was personal, egalitarian, and accessible. In the South, the Alvars (Vaishnavite) and Nayanars (Shaivite) had already laid the groundwork by composing devotional poetry in the vernacular. This tradition was carried forward by figures who challenged social rigidities and religious formalism. Their impact was not confined to the religious sphere; by questioning caste discrimination and advocating for a more just social order, they often influenced the socio-political climate. A particularly noteworthy aspect of this era was the emergence of prominent women saints. Figures like Andal in the South and Mirabai in the North defied patriarchal norms and conventional social expectations to pursue their path of devotion. These women saints carved out a space for female spiritual authority and expression, challenging the confines of domesticity and offering a powerful alternative role model for women. Their devotional hymns and life stories became a source of inspiration, demonstrating that spiritual attainment was not contingent on gender, and their legacy continues to resonate in regional cultural traditions.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, what was a common characteristic of the saints of the medieval period?
(A) They primarily used Sanskrit to communicate their teachings.
(B) They sought to reinforce the authority of the orthodox priestly class.
(C) Their influence was restricted solely to the political elites.
(D) They advocated for a personal, egalitarian, and accessible form of religion.

262. The Alvars and Nayanars from South India are mentioned in the passage as laying the groundwork for:
(A) The establishment of Madarasa education.
(B) The tradition of composing devotional poetry in vernacular languages.
(C) The development of Indo-Islamic architecture.
(D) The formation of the Sikh Khalsa.

263. How did the saints of the medieval period influence the socio-political climate?
(A) By directly participating in military campaigns and governance.
(B) By focusing exclusively on abstract theological debates.
(C) By questioning caste discrimination and advocating for a more just social order.
(D) By creating a new system of law to replace existing ones.

264. What does the passage highlight as the significance of women saints like Andal and Mirabai?
(A) They reinforced traditional patriarchal roles for women.
(B) They focused on creating new schools of painting.
(C) They were primarily involved in the Zanana system of the nobility.
(D) They demonstrated that spiritual authority was not determined by gender.

265. What can be inferred about the long-term impact of medieval saints from the passage?
(A) Their devotional works and life stories became an enduring part of regional cultures.
(B) Their teachings were quickly forgotten after their time.
(C) Their legacy is primarily preserved in formal, elite institutions.
(D) Their work led to the complete eradication of the caste system.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Sikh Movement, originating in the Punjab region, represents a distinct spiritual and social

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development in medieval India. Its foundation was laid by Guru Nanak Dev, whose teachings form the cornerstone of Sikh philosophy. Guru Nanak advocated for a monotheistic faith centred on the belief in one formless God (Ik Onkar) and rejected ritualism, idol worship, and the caste system. His practices emphasized the importance of honest living, selfless service (seva), and the remembrance of God's name (naam japna). These teachings were designed to create a just and egalitarian society. A crucial development in the institutionalization of the Sikh faith was the compilation of the Adi Granth. This sacred scripture, later known as the Guru Granth Sahib, was compiled by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, and includes the teachings of the Sikh Gurus as well as a selection of devotional works by Hindu and Muslim saints. The movement underwent a significant transformation with the establishment of the Khalsa by the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh. The Khalsa was a community of initiated Sikhs, bound by a strict code of conduct and distinguished by five articles of faith. This development gave the Sikh community a distinct religio-military identity, preparing them to resist oppression and defend their faith and rights.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is a core tenet of Guru Nanak Dev's teachings as described in the passage?
(A) Belief in multiple deities and idol worship.
(B) Belief in one formless God and the rejection of ritualism.
(C) The strict observance of the caste system.
(D) The necessity of asceticism and withdrawal from society.

267. The sacred scripture of Sikhism, which includes teachings from Sikh Gurus as well as other saints, is known as:
(A) The Khalsa.
(B) The Adi Granth.
(C) The Zanana.
(D) The Devadasi.

268. The establishment of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh served to:
(A) Give the Sikh community a distinct religio-military identity.
(B) Promote the practice of idol worship within the community.
(C) Abolish the practice of selfless service (seva).
(D) Reintroduce the caste system into Sikh society.

269. According to the passage, Guru Nanak's practices were designed to create what kind of society?
(A) A society based on a rigid hierarchical structure.
(B) A society focused on mercantile and professional pursuits only.
(C) A just and egalitarian society.
(D) A society governed by the Ulemas.

270. What can be inferred about the composition of the Adi Granth from the passage?
(A) It exclusively contains the writings of Guru Nanak Dev.
(B) It is primarily a text on military strategy and governance.
(C) It was written in Sanskrit to appeal to the orthodox elite.
(D) It reflects a syncretic approach by including works of non-Sikh saints.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Medieval Indian society was characterized by a complex and hierarchical system of social classification. At the apex of this structure was the ruling class, comprising the monarch, nobility, and high-ranking military commanders, who wielded immense political power and controlled a significant portion of the state's resources. Below them were major religious groups, whose influence varied. The Ulemas, or Islamic scholars and theologians, held a position of considerable authority, particularly in the Sultanate and Mughal states, where they often acted as interpreters of religious law and advisors to the court. Their influence extended to the judicial and educational systems. Another significant stratum was the mercantile and professional classes. This diverse group included wealthy merchants, bankers, and traders who facilitated commerce and finance, as well as skilled professionals like physicians, scribes, and artists who served the state and the nobility. Within the broader social fabric, Rajput society presented a distinct model

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of social organization, structured around clans, lineage, and a strong martial ethos. Governed by a strict code of honour and chivalry, Rajput society placed a high value on land ownership and military service, which defined the status and obligations of its members. This intricate classification created a society of defined roles, privileges, and obligations, shaping the dynamics of power and social interaction.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. According to the passage, who constituted the ruling class in medieval Indian society?
(A) Only the mercantile and professional classes.
(B) The Ulemas and other religious scholars exclusively.
(C) The monarch, nobility, and high-ranking military commanders.
(D) Petty chieftains and village officials.

272. The term 'Ulemas' in the context of the passage refers to:
(A) Wealthy merchants and bankers.
(B) Islamic scholars and theologians.
(C) Rajput clan leaders.
(D) The non-cultivating classes in rural society.

273. Which societal group is described as being structured around clans, lineage, and a strong martial ethos?
(A) The mercantile and professional classes.
(B) The Ulemas.
(C) The artisans of rural society.
(D) Rajput society.

274. What was a primary role of the mercantile and professional classes in medieval India?
(A) To facilitate commerce, finance, and provide skilled services.
(B) To interpret religious law for the state.
(C) To lead military campaigns and defend the kingdom.
(D) To cultivate land and produce agricultural goods.

275. What can be inferred about the function of the Ulemas in states like the Sultanate and Mughal empire?
(A) Their role was purely ceremonial with no real influence.
(B) They were primarily responsible for tax collection in rural areas.
(C) They held significant authority in legal and educational matters.
(D) They were in constant conflict with the ruling class for political power.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The structure of rural society in medieval India was multifaceted and deeply stratified, forming the economic backbone of the state. At a level just below the regional nobility were the petty chieftains, who were often local hereditary leaders. They exercised considerable autonomy in their territories, responsible for maintaining law and order and collecting revenue, a portion of which was passed on to the central authority. Assisting in the administration of the countryside were the village officials, such as the headman and the accountant, who acted as crucial intermediaries between the state and the rural populace. The vast majority of the rural population consisted of cultivators, who were themselves a differentiated group, ranging from those with proprietary rights over the land they tilled to tenant farmers with varying degrees of security. Alongside the cultivators, there existed significant non-cultivating classes, which included landless labourers who provided essential manual work, particularly during planting and harvesting seasons. Another vital component of the village economy was the artisans. This group, including blacksmiths, potters, carpenters, and weavers, provided specialized goods and services to the village community, often operating within a system of hereditary obligations and receiving a fixed share of the harvest as remuneration for their work. This organization ensured the self-sufficiency of the village to a large extent.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. In the hierarchy of rural society, who were the intermediaries between the state and the general rural population?
(A) The village officials, like the headman and accountant.
(B) The petty chieftains and the ruling class.
(C) The artisans and the non-cultivating classes.

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(C) They were primarily funded by mercantile guilds.
(D) They received significant support from rulers and nobles.

290. How did the graduates of Madarasas contribute to the state, according to the text?
(A) By staffing the judicial and administrative bureaucracy.
(B) By serving as military commanders in the army.
(C) By managing the royal gardens and architecture projects.
(D) By leading the major schools of painting.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The medieval period witnessed a remarkable efflorescence in the fine arts, particularly in painting and music, which evolved through a dynamic synthesis of indigenous and external influences. The art of painting reached unprecedented heights of refinement and diversity, leading to the development of major distinct schools. Mughal painting, patronized by the emperors, was characterized by its naturalism, fine detailing, and focus on portraiture, court scenes, and historical events. It blended Persian aesthetics with Indian sensibilities. In parallel, several regional styles flourished. Rajasthani painting, encompassing various sub-schools like Mewar and Kishangarh, was deeply rooted in the cultural ethos of the Rajput courts and often depicted mythological themes, particularly the legends of Krishna, with vibrant colours and lyrical emotionalism. The Pahari school, which developed in the Himalayan foothills, is known for its delicate and poetic style, exemplified by the Kangra and Garhwali sub-schools, which masterfully captured romantic and devotional themes. Concurrently, the development of music was equally significant. The period saw the consolidation of Hindustani classical music in the North, with new genres like Khayal gaining prominence, alongside the continued evolution of the Carnatic tradition in the South. Music was an integral part of courtly life, religious festivals, and Sufi devotionalism, reflecting the rich and pluralistic cultural landscape of the time.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. Which school of painting is described in the passage as being characterized by naturalism and a focus on court scenes and portraiture?
(A) Pahari School.
(B) Rajasthani School.
(C) Mughal School.
(D) Garhwali School.

292. The Rajasthani school of painting often depicted themes related to:
(A) The legends of Krishna and mythological narratives.
(B) The life of Guru Nanak Dev.
(C) The construction of Maratha forts.
(D) The curriculum of Madarasa education.

293. The Pahari, Garhwali, and Rajasthani schools are all mentioned as examples of:
(A) Indo-Islamic architectural styles.
(B) Different orders within the Sufi movement.
(C) Forms of music popular in the Mughal court.
(D) Major schools of painting that developed regionally.

294. What does the passage suggest about the development of music during the medieval period?
(A) It was exclusively patronized by Sufi saints.
(B) It saw the consolidation of Hindustani classical music and was integral to courtly and religious life.
(C) It was limited to the Carnatic tradition in the South.
(D) It declined in importance compared to painting and architecture.

295. What can be inferred about the nature of fine arts in medieval India from the passage?
(A) They were a monolithic tradition with no regional variations.
(B) They were purely religious and devoid of courtly patronage.
(C) They evolved through a synthesis of different cultural influences and flourished in diverse regional styles.
(D) They were completely separate from Persian aesthetics and influences.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

283. What is a key contrast between the Zanana and Devadasi systems as presented in the passage?
(A) Zanana was a rural practice, while Devadasi was exclusively urban.
(B) Zanana involved seclusion, while the Devadasi role was public and ritual-based.
(C) The Zanana system was associated with temples, and the Devadasi system with palaces.
(D) The Zanana was for non-elite women, while Devadasis were from the ruling class.

284. According to the passage, what was a consequence of the Zanana system for elite women?
(A) It limited their mobility and public visibility through seclusion.
(B) It granted them complete freedom to participate in public politics.
(C) It required them to become proficient in music and dance for temple rituals.
(D) It led to the abolition of their rights to property and patronage.

285. What can be inferred about the position of women in medieval India from the passage?
(A) It was uniform and egalitarian across all social classes and regions.
(B) It was exclusively defined by either the Zanana or the Devadasi system.
(C) It was diverse and shaped by factors like social status and regional customs.
(D) It was universally one of high honour and public authority.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The development of education in medieval India saw the flourishing of distinct systems of learning that catered to the needs of different communities and the state. Education was not centralized, but rather imparted through various institutions, with prominent centres of education emerging across the subcontinent. For the Hindu population, traditional pathshalas and temple-based schools continued to impart knowledge, often focusing on scriptures, grammar, logic, and mathematics. However, a significant institutional development during the period of the Sultanates and the Mughals was the proliferation of Madarasa education. Madarasas were institutions of higher learning primarily focused on Islamic theology and jurisprudence (fiqh). The curriculum in these institutions was comprehensive, encompassing subjects like Quranic exegesis (tafsir), prophetic traditions (hadith), logic, philosophy, and sometimes even astronomy and medicine. These centres of education were crucial for training a class of educated individuals—the Ulemas—who would staff the state's judicial and administrative bureaucracy. Rulers and nobles often patronized these Madarasas, establishing them as major intellectual hubs. While the curriculum was largely theocentric, the inclusion of rational sciences indicates a broader intellectual pursuit beyond purely religious studies, contributing significantly to the intellectual and administrative life of the era.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. What was the primary focus of Madarasa education in medieval India?
(A) The promotion of the Bhakti movement.
(B) The study of Indo-Islamic architecture.
(C) The training of artisans and cultivators.
(D) The study of Islamic theology and jurisprudence.

287. The passage indicates that Madarasas were crucial for training which social group?
(A) Rajput warriors.
(B) Mercantile classes.
(C) The Ulemas.
(D) Devadasis.

288. According to the passage, the curriculum of a Madarasa typically included:
(A) Only the study of the Quran and its exegesis.
(B) A broad range of subjects including theology, law, logic, and philosophy.
(C) Primarily fine arts such as painting and music.
(D) Teachings of Guru Nanak Dev and the Adi Granth.

289. What can be inferred about the patronage of Madarasas?
(A) They were solely supported by village communities.
(B) They were independent institutions with no external funding.

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region. Together, these figures helped spread the message of personal devotion throughout their respective territories.

16. (B) To act as intermediaries for revenue collection between the state and the peasantry.
Local administrators served as the vital link between the central government and the rural farming communities. Their main responsibility was to assess agricultural production and ensure that the appropriate share of the harvest was collected for the treasury. They also maintained local land records and settled minor disputes within the community, ensuring social stability. In return for their services, these officials often received a portion of the revenue or were granted land, establishing them as influential figures.

17. (B) The dedication of women to the service of a deity in a temple.
This historical practice involved young girls being ceremonially married to a temple deity, committing their lives to the preservation of sacred arts and rituals. These women were highly skilled in classical dance and music, playing an essential role in the cultural activities of the shrine. While originally considered a position of high social status and religious importance, the institution underwent significant changes over time. It remains a notable aspect of the religious history of southern regions.

18. (A) Higher learning in Islamic sciences and other disciplines.
These educational institutions served as centers for advanced study, focusing on subjects like theology, jurisprudence, logic, and philosophy. They were crucial for training the administrative and judicial officials required by the state. While religious studies were central, the curriculum also included various rational sciences, attracting students seeking intellectual and professional growth. Supported by royal grants and private endowments, these schools played a major role in preserving and transmitting knowledge across generations, contributing to the rich intellectual climate.

19. (C) Exclusive focus on courtly portraiture and realistic documentation.
This vibrant artistic tradition is celebrated for its emotional depth and use of bold, symbolic colors rather than purely realistic representation. It drew heavily from regional folklore, mythology, and the lyrical themes of devotional poetry, particularly stories of divine love. Unlike the imperial court style, which emphasized formal portraits and historical events, this school prioritized the depiction of local legends and romanticized landscapes. Its primary goal was to evoke specific moods and sentiments, reflecting the spiritual and cultural aspirations.

20. (D) Strategic locations on hilltops and strong defensive features.
These fortifications were masterfully engineered to take full advantage of the rugged terrain, providing exceptional security against invaders. Built primarily on high ridges, they featured multiple layers of walls, massive gates, and secret escape routes to ensure resilience during prolonged sieges. The design prioritized military functionality and tactical advantage, allowing for effective surveillance and defense of the surrounding territories. These strongholds were central to the military strategy of the region, symbolizing power and resilience against external threats.

21. (C) Love ('Ishq') and devotion ('Bhakti').
The mystical path focuses on the realization of the divine through the cultivation of an intense, personal bond with God. Practitioners believe that worldly attachments must be discarded in favor of overwhelming emotional longing and spiritual intimacy. This approach emphasizes the transformation of the heart over the mere performance of outward rituals or intellectual exercises. By pursuing a state of spiritual intoxication and selflessness, the seeker aims to bridge the gap between the human soul and ultimate reality.

22. (A) 3, 1, 2, 4
The devotional movement evolved through several distinct phases across different regions and eras. The earliest expressions began with the singer-saints of the south, followed by the philosophical contributions of Ramanuja. Later, influential reformers like Kabir emerged in the north during the fifteenth century, challenging social norms through their syncretic message. Finally, ecstatic movements led by figures such as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu gained prominence in

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The architectural landscape of medieval India is a testament to the period's rich cultural synthesis and political ambitions. A dominant theme is the evolution of Indo-Islamic architecture, a style that emerged from the fusion of Turko-Persian traditions with indigenous Indian building techniques and decorative motifs. This synthesis is visible in features like the arch, dome, and minaret combined with Indian elements like brackets, balconies (jharokhas), and chhatris. Mughal architecture represents the pinnacle of this style, characterized by its grandeur, symmetry, and extensive use of white marble and red sandstone. Masterpieces such as the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort exemplify the Mughals' aesthetic vision and imperial power. Alongside the imperial Mughal style, vibrant regional styles also developed. These regional expressions, found in places like Jaunpur, Gujarat, and the Deccan, adapted imperial architectural ideas to local materials, climates, and artistic traditions, resulting in unique and distinctive monuments. Beyond formal structures, the concept of the Mughal Gardens, or 'charbagh', represented a sophisticated integration of nature and architecture, creating paradise-like spaces with flowing water and geometric precision. In a different political context, the Marathas developed a distinct architectural footprint, primarily through the construction of formidable forts, which were marvels of military engineering designed for defense in the rugged terrain of the Deccan. These forts, along with regional shrines and temples, showcase the diversity and ingenuity of architectural expression across medieval India.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What does the term 'Indo-Islamic architecture' signify according to the passage?
(A) A style exclusively using Indian building techniques.
(B) Architecture focused solely on building temples and shrines.
(C) The architectural style of the Maratha forts.
(D) A fusion of Turko-Persian traditions with indigenous Indian elements.

297. Mughal architecture is described as being characterized by:
(A) Grandeur, symmetry, and the use of white marble and red sandstone.
(B) Its small scale and use of simple, local materials.
(C) Its asymmetry and lack of decorative elements.
(D) Its primary focus on military engineering over aesthetics.

298. The passage mentions Mughal Gardens, or 'charbagh', as an example of:
(A) A type of military fortification.
(B) An integration of nature and architecture.
(C) The development of regional painting styles.
(D) A centre for Madarasa education.

299. What was the primary characteristic of Maratha architecture as highlighted in the text?
(A) The construction of elaborate temples and shrines.
(B) The building of formidable forts for military defense.
(C) The development of paradise-like gardens.
(D) The use of white marble in symmetrical structures.

300. What can be inferred from the mention of regional styles in Jaunpur and Gujarat?
(A) Architectural expression was diverse and adapted to local conditions and traditions.
(B) All architecture in medieval India was identical to the Mughal imperial style.
(C) Regional styles rejected all influence from Indo-Islamic architecture.
(D) These regions only built temporary structures with no lasting monuments.

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(D) The cultivators with proprietary rights.

277. According to the passage, what was a key responsibility of the petty chieftains?
(A) To directly cultivate the land with their families.
(B) To provide specialized goods and services like pottery.
(C) To serve as religious leaders for the village community.
(D) To maintain local law and order and collect revenue.

278. The passage describes artisans in the rural economy as:
(A) Landless labourers who worked only during harvest season.
(B) Providers of specialized goods and services, often paid with a share of the harvest.
(C) The wealthiest group in the village, equivalent to chieftains.
(D) Officials appointed by the central state to oversee village administration.

279. What does the passage suggest about the class of cultivators?
(A) They were a homogenous group with equal rights to land.
(B) They consisted only of landless labourers.
(C) They were a differentiated group with varying rights to the land.
(D) They were primarily responsible for village administration.

280. What can be inferred about the economic organization of a medieval Indian village from the passage?
(A) It was highly dependent on external trade for basic necessities.
(B) It was a purely egalitarian system with no hierarchy.
(C) It was primarily monetized, with all services paid for in cash.
(D) It was structured to be largely self-sufficient.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The position of women in medieval India was complex and varied significantly with social status and regional customs, but certain institutions had a profound impact on their lives. Among the elite, especially within Rajput and Muslim nobility, the Zanana system was prevalent. The Zanana referred to the secluded domestic quarters for women within a palace or a large household, designed to ensure their privacy and protect the family's honour. While this system imposed strict seclusion (purdah) and limited women's mobility and public participation, it did not necessarily mean a complete lack of agency. Within the Zanana, women of the royal household could exercise considerable influence, manage large estates (jagirs), and patronize art and architecture. In stark contrast to this life of secluded domesticity was the Devadasi system, prevalent primarily in South and parts of Eastern India. Devadasis were women who were "dedicated" to the service of a deity in a temple. Initially, this was a position of high honour, and Devadasis were often highly accomplished artists, proficient in music and dance, who played a central role in temple rituals. Over time, however, the institution degenerated, and the position of Devadasis became associated with exploitation. These two systems, Zanana and Devadasi, represent two very different, yet significant, aspects of the social realities shaping the lives of women during the period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. What does the term 'Zanana' refer to in the context of medieval elite society?
(A) Secluded domestic quarters for women in a household.
(B) A public school for the education of women.
(C) A military unit composed of women warriors.
(D) An open court where women could address public grievances.

282. The passage suggests that the Devadasi system was initially associated with:
(A) Women serving in the military of petty chieftains.
(B) Women dedicated to the service of a temple deity, often as accomplished artists.
(C) Women working as merchants in Indo-Arabic trade.
(D) Women living in seclusion under the Zanana system.

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8. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
These spiritual movements played a pivotal role in bridging social and religious gaps by promoting universal themes of love and compassion. By using local dialects instead of classical languages, the saints reached the common population, making complex spiritual ideas more accessible. Their emphasis on personal devotion over rigid rituals challenged existing hierarchies and fostered unity. Consequently, these movements significantly enhanced social cohesion and mutual understanding in the pluralistic and diverse medieval Indian environment.

9. (C) Shaktism
This religious tradition centers on the veneration of the divine feminine energy, often personified as the Goddess or the Divine Mother. Adherents believe that this supreme power is responsible for the creation, preservation, and destruction of the universe. The movement encompasses various forms of worship, ranging from peaceful devotional practices to complex rituals. It highlights the importance of the female principle in achieving spiritual liberation and has deeply influenced the cultural fabric of the subcontinent.

10. (A) Janabai
This revered woman saint was a devoted follower of the Vithoba tradition and spent much of her life in the service of another prominent mystic. Her poetry, composed in the local language, reflects deep personal devotion and the struggles of everyday existence. Through her verses, she expressed a profound sense of spiritual intimacy with the divine, making her message relatable to common people. Her contributions remain a significant part of the rich devotional literature.

11. (C) 1, 2 and 3
The tenth Guru established this community to provide a distinct identity and a sense of discipline to the followers of the faith. It was intended to serve as a body of courageous individuals dedicated to protecting religious freedom and resisting oppression. The initiation process involved a ceremony where participants partook of a sanctified liquid, symbolizing their commitment. Membership was open to all, regardless of previous social background, thereby promoting equality and unity among the people.

12. (B) The practice of secluding women in dedicated domestic quarters.
This social arrangement was common among the elite and royal families, where women lived in separate portions of the household. It was designed to ensure privacy and uphold social norms regarding the modesty and protection of female family members. Within these spaces, women managed their own social lives and sometimes exerted significant influence over domestic matters. The system reflected the hierarchical and gender-segregated nature of society during that period, particularly in urban and courtly environments.

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13. (C) The inlay of precious and semi-precious stones into marble.
This sophisticated decorative method became a signature feature of imperial buildings during the seventeenth century. It involves cutting tiny pieces of colorful gems and fitting them perfectly into pre-carved slots on stone surfaces, typically white marble, to create intricate floral or geometric patterns. This technique showcased the immense wealth and refined aesthetic tastes of the ruling dynasty. The results were visually stunning, adding a layer of delicate beauty and luxury to grand monumental structures.

14. (D) A formal garden divided into four quadrants.
This landscape design was introduced and became a defining feature of imperial architecture, especially for tomb and palace complexes. The layout typically features a central point from which four water channels or paths radiate, dividing the space into equal parts. This arrangement was intended to symbolize the four rivers of paradise as described in religious texts. These gardens provided a serene environment that combined structural symmetry with the natural beauty of trees and flowing water.

15. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Various spiritual leaders emerged across different parts of the subcontinent, each contributing to local culture and language. Narsinh Mehta is deeply associated with the devotional traditions of the western coast, while Chaitanya Mahaprabhu revolutionized spirituality in the eastern plains. Shankaradeva was instrumental in the cultural reform of the northeastern frontier, and Tukaram became a towering figure in the central plateau

ANSWERS

1. (B) A spiritual lineage connecting a Sufi master to their disciples.
The term refers to a continuous chain of spiritual succession within Sufi orders, linking practitioners back to the Prophet. It ensures the transmission of divine knowledge and spiritual authority from a master to their followers through successive generations. Each order maintains its own genealogical record to establish the legitimacy of a master's teachings. This lineage fosters a sense of unity and continuity among the practitioners of the mystical path.

2. (A) Vaishnavism
This devotional tradition focuses on the worship of the deity Vishnu as the supreme being. Adherents believe in his various incarnations, known as avatars, who descend to earth to restore cosmic order and righteousness. Prominent figures like Rama and Krishna are central to the movement's literature and religious practice. The tradition emphasizes complete surrender and personal devotion to the deity as the primary means for achieving spiritual liberation and peace.

3. (C) He emphasized belief in one formless God and the equality of humanity.
The founder of the faith preached the oneness of a formless, omnipresent divine entity. He strongly rejected distinctions based on caste, creed, or gender, advocating for a society rooted in social justice and universal brotherhood. His teachings promoted honest living, selfless service, and constant meditation on the divine name. This inclusive philosophy aimed to dismantle the prevailing rigid social hierarchies and spiritual rituals, offering a simplified path to salvation for all.

4. (D) Scholars of Islamic law and theology.
This group represented the intellectual and religious elite who specialized in interpreting the Quran and the Sunnah. They played a crucial role in advising rulers on administrative and judicial matters according to religious laws. Their influence extended over education, where they managed mosques and institutions of higher learning. As guardians of religious orthodoxy, they held significant social authority and often acted as mediators between the state and the Muslim population.

5. (C) The Mughal School
This distinctive artistic tradition developed within the imperial courts, blending elements from Persian, Indian, and later European styles. Under the direct patronage of emperors, artists focused on realistic portraiture, court ceremonies, historical events, and the natural world. It is characterized by refined techniques, vibrant colors, and meticulous attention to detail in miniature paintings. This school played a vital role in documenting the grandeur of the empire and reached its peak during the seventeenth century.

6. (B) Indo-Islamic Architecture
This architectural tradition emerged from the interaction between local Indian building techniques and Islamic structural principles brought by the Sultanate and Mughal rulers. It is defined by the integration of the arch and dome with traditional Indian elements like decorative brackets and carved motifs. This fusion created monumental structures such as mosques, tombs, and palaces that displayed both grandeur and intricate craftsmanship. The style represents a significant cultural synthesis that transformed the landscape of the subcontinent.

7. (D) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
This highly revered mystic arrived in India during the twelfth century and established the most influential Sufi order in the region. He settled in Ajmer, where his teachings emphasized simplicity, love for humanity, and the importance of spiritual devotion. His shrine remains a major pilgrimage center for people of various faiths, symbolizing the inclusive and syncretic nature of his message. His followers played a crucial role in spreading Sufi ideals throughout medieval India.

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the sixteenth century. This progression illustrates the gradual expansion and diversification of devotional traditions throughout the subcontinent.

23. (D) Adi Granth
This sacred compilation serves as the central religious text, brought together to preserve the hymns and teachings of spiritual leaders. It includes the compositions of the early guides along with the works of various other mystics from different backgrounds, reflecting a message of universal truth. By organizing these writings, the fifth Guru provided the community with an authoritative source of spiritual guidance. This text eventually became the eternal spiritual authority for the faith, guiding practitioners in daily life.

24. (A) Lineage, clan honor, and martial values.
This social group was defined by a deep commitment to their ancestral heritage and a code of conduct that prioritized bravery and loyalty. Their identity was rooted in the prestige of their respective clans, with a strong emphasis on protecting their land and upholding family dignity. Military prowess was considered the highest virtue, and the pursuit of glory on the battlefield was a central aspect of their lives. These values shaped their political alliances, social interactions, and cultural traditions.

25. (C) 1, 3 and 4 only
Spiritual reformers during this era played a crucial role in transforming the social and religious landscape. They advocated for the removal of barriers created by the caste system and the simplification of religious practices by emphasizing personal connection to the divine. By composing their hymns in local dialects, they not only reached a wider audience but also significantly enriched regional literature and identity. Their teachings focused on the inner spiritual experience and moral integrity, making religion more accessible for all.

26. (A) Village artisans like potters and blacksmiths
Rural society was composed of various groups that performed essential roles beyond direct agricultural production. These individuals provided specialized goods and services, such as crafting tools and manufacturing household items, which were necessary for the functioning of the farming community. Unlike the peasants who were primarily engaged in tilling the land, these specialists were compensated through a share of the harvest or through traditional exchange systems. Their presence ensured the self-sufficiency of the village and contributed to overall economic stability.

27. (D) A mix of theology, law, logic, philosophy, and sciences.
The curriculum in these advanced educational centers was designed to provide a comprehensive education for students aiming for administrative or judicial careers. While religious subjects like the interpretation of scripture and jurisprudence were foundational, the studies also encompassed rational disciplines such as mathematics, medicine, and astronomy. This broad approach ensured that graduates possessed both spiritual knowledge and practical skills required to serve the state. These institutions were vital hubs of intellectual activity, reflecting sophisticated educational standards of the period.

28. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
This artistic style is renowned for its graceful forms and the expressive portrayal of human emotions, particularly in the context of divine romance. The artists drew profound inspiration from the devotional literature of the time, which celebrated the symbolic love between the soul and the divine through popular legends. This focus on lyrical themes allowed for the creation of delicate and evocative works that resonated with the spiritual sensibilities of the people. Consequently, the school became a major center.

29. (C) Arcuate system, using arches and domes.
This building method revolutionized construction by introducing structural techniques that allowed for larger interior spaces and more imposing exteriors. The use of the arch enabled builders to span wider distances, while the dome provided a majestic crowning element for various monuments. These features were often combined with intricate surface decorations, such as calligraphy and geometric patterns. This transition from older post-and-lintel techniques marked a significant evolution

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58. (A) The style of the Bengal Sultanate, using brick and terracotta ornamentation.
Architectural development in different provinces often reflected a unique synthesis of central influences and local building traditions. For instance, in the eastern plains, builders utilized abundant local materials like clay to create distinctive structures adorned with intricate molded designs. This style was characterized by specific features like curved roofs that mirrored indigenous bamboo huts, adapted for monumental stone buildings. These regional variations demonstrate the adaptability of imperial architectural concepts to local climates and resources across the diverse medieval landscape.

59. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
A significant number of spiritual leaders during this era emerged from marginalized social groups, reflecting the movement's focus on universal spiritual equality. By preaching a message of direct devotion to the divine, they fundamentally challenged prevailing rigid social hierarchies and the dominance of the priestly class. Their lives and teachings demonstrated that spiritual realization was accessible to everyone, regardless of birth or status. This inclusive approach resonated deeply with common people, fostering a sense of dignity and belonging for all.

60. (D) Charbagh style.
These imperial gardens are designed according to a formal layout that divides the space into four equal quadrants using intersecting water channels or pathways. This symmetrical arrangement was intended to symbolize the earthly representation of paradise, combining architectural precision with the natural beauty of trees. This design became a hallmark of the dynasty's aesthetic, appearing in palace grounds and tomb complexes. The integration of flowing water provided both cooling and visual appeal, creating serene environments that reflected refined cultural tastes.

61. (B) The hospice or center for a Sufi order, led by a master.
These institutions served as the primary hubs for the activities of mystical orders, providing a space for spiritual training, communal living, and social service. Under the guidance of a spiritual master, followers gathered here to participate in meditations, recitations, and discussions on the mystical path. These centers were open to people from all walks of life, often offering food and shelter to the needy. As vital centers of life, they played a crucial role in spreading mystical ideals.

62. (C) A formless, attributeless God.
This stream of the devotional movement emphasized the worship of the ultimate reality as a transcendent principle, rather than through specific physical forms or incarnations. Practitioners believed that the divine could not be limited by human descriptions, focusing instead on internal meditation and the realization of the universal spirit. This approach often led to a critique of outward religious ceremonies, advocating for a more internalized experience. The teachings focused on the oneness of the creator and the fundamental equality of all.

63. (D) Lalleshwari (Lal Ded)
This fourteenth-century woman mystic is a prominent figure in the spiritual history of the northern mountainous region. She is famous for her rhythmic verses that blend mystical insights with a critique of religious orthodoxies. Her poetry reflects a deep yearning for spiritual union and emphasizes the importance of inner realization over external rituals. These verses, composed in the local language, have been preserved through oral tradition for centuries, continuing to inspire people with their message of universal love.

64. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval society was organized into several distinct groups, each defined by its specific role in the political, religious, and economic life of the state. The elite held the highest administrative and military positions, while the intellectual group specialized in religious law and guidance. Commercial activities were managed by a class of traders and bankers who ensured the flow of goods. Additionally, a diverse group of specialists provided the essential goods required by both urban and rural populations.

65. (A) Red Sandstone
The major construction projects undertaken during the late sixteenth century primarily utilized a specific type of locally available durable

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37. (C) The Qawwali
This genre of devotional music emerged from the creative synthesis of indigenous melodic traditions and Perso-Arabic poetic forms. It was primarily performed at the shrines of mystics to induce spiritual ecstasy among listeners and express deep religious longing. The use of repetitive rhythms and powerful vocal delivery helped convey the messages of the Sufi saints to the general population. This musical tradition became an essential part of cultural life, symbolizing the inclusive and syncretic spirit of the movement.

38. (B) Jahangir
During the early seventeenth century, the imperial school of art reached its highest level of refinement and sophistication. The emperor was a passionate connoisseur who took personal interest in artists, encouraging them to achieve extreme realism. This period saw a move away from large-scale illustrations toward more intimate portrayals of individuals, exotic animals, and detailed botanical studies. The emphasis on technical perfection and naturalistic detail made this era the most celebrated phase of the empire's rich artistic history.

39. (D) Fostering harmony and mutual understanding between different religious groups.
Mystics during the medieval period sought to bridge divides between diverse communities by emphasizing shared spiritual values and universal moral principles. They believed that by focusing on the common quest for divine love, individuals from different backgrounds could live together in peace. Their hospices became centers where people of all faiths gathered, promoting social cohesion and the exchange of ideas. This inclusive approach was instrumental in creating a more integrated and tolerant society, reducing conflicts throughout the region.

40. (B) 2 and 3 only
This religious phenomenon was characterized by its focus on intense personal devotion as the most effective path to spiritual fulfillment. Practitioners advocated for a direct relationship with the divine, which led them to question the necessity of complex rituals and the mediation of a formal priestly class. While the movement had diverse regional leaders, these core principles remained consistent across various traditions. By promoting an internal spiritual experience, it made religious life more accessible to the common people.

41. (C) The congregation for worship and the communal meal for all, regardless of caste.
These two practices were central to the social reform efforts of the early spiritual leader, aiming to dismantle the rigid barriers of the caste system. By creating a space where people of all backgrounds gathered to pray together, he reinforced the idea of spiritual equality. Similarly, the tradition of eating from a common kitchen ensured that no one was excluded based on social status. These institutions fostered a strong sense of community and mutual service, promoting equality.

42. (A) They formed the apex of the social pyramid, comprising the emperor, nobles, and high officials.
This elite group held the highest positions of power and authority within the imperial administration. It included the monarch, his immediate family, and the high-ranking military and civil officers who managed the affairs of the state. Their status was defined by proximity to the throne and the substantial land grants or administrative ranks they held. They enjoyed immense wealth and lived in luxury, often serving as patrons. This class was responsible for policy-making and maintaining order across vast territories.

43. (D) Intermediary zamindars or local hereditary chiefs with control over villages.
These local leaders held traditional authority over several villages and acted as crucial intermediaries between the peasantry and the central state. Their power was often hereditary, rooted in long-standing social and economic influence within their respective territories. They were responsible for collecting land revenue and maintaining order at the local level, sometimes possessing their own small military forces. Their support was essential for the stability of the imperial administration, as they controlled resources and loyalty of the rural population.

44. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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The social status of women during this era was multifaceted, involving both restrictive customs and opportunities for significant influence. While many women were confined to secluded quarters or faced harsh traditional practices, others rose to prominence as spiritual leaders or political figures. These exceptions demonstrate that the experiences of women were not uniform across all classes and regions. The existence of influential female saints and rulers provides a counter-narrative to prevailing norms of subjugation and rigid social constraints.

45. (C) Pahari
This artistic sub-school flourished in the mountainous regions and is known for its distinctive style and themes. It is a branch of a larger tradition that developed in the hill states, characterized by a focus on lyrical and romantic narratives from local folklore and religious epics. The works often feature delicate lines and a refined use of color to evoke specific emotional responses. This tradition played a vital role in cultural life, reflecting the spiritual and aesthetic values.

46. (D) The use of arches, domes, and geometric patterns.
This architectural tradition is distinguished by the integration of specific structural elements that allowed for the creation of majestic and spacious buildings. The use of the arch and dome provided both strength and grandeur, while intricate geometric and floral motifs replaced representational art in surface decoration. These features were often combined with traditional Indian craftsmanship to produce a unique aesthetic. The resulting structures displayed a sophisticated understanding of mathematics and engineering, reflecting the cultural synthesis of the medieval era.

47. (A) A gathering for listening to mystical music and poetry to induce a spiritual state.
This spiritual practice involved the use of melodic recitations and rhythmic music to help the devotee achieve a heightened state of awareness and emotional connection with the divine. These assemblies were often held at the centers of Sufi orders, attracting seekers who believed that music could bypass the intellect and directly touch the soul. The experience was intended to foster spiritual intoxication and a sense of unity with ultimate reality. This tradition remains a significant aspect of the mystical heritage.

48. (B) Vishnu and Shiva, respectively.
These two groups of singer-saints were instrumental in initiating the devotional movement in southern India during the early medieval period. One group composed hymns in praise of the preserver deity, while the other focused their devotion on the transformer deity. Through their passionate poetry and itinerant preaching, they popularized the concept of personal devotion among common people, often challenging social hierarchies. Their work laid the foundation for later expansion of the movement, profoundly influencing regional languages, literature, and religious practices.

49. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
The imperial architecture of the era was characterized by the innovative fusion of indigenous and imported structural techniques. This included the use of sophisticated dome designs and formal garden layouts that emphasized symmetry and flowing water. High-quality materials like white marble and delicate inlay work became increasingly prominent, reflecting immense wealth. Furthermore, builders often integrated traditional Indian elements like decorative brackets and lintels with newer arch-based systems. These combined features created a distinctive and majestic style that defined monumental structures.

50. (B) The community of the initiated Sikh brotherhood and sisterhood.
This term refers to the collective body of believers who have undergone a specific initiation ceremony, committing themselves to a disciplined life of spiritual devotion and social responsibility. Established by the tenth Guru, this community was designed to provide a strong and unified identity, emphasizing the values of courage and equality. Members are expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct and maintain specific external symbols. This institution transformed the followers into a resilient and organized group dedicated to protection.

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51. (A) Cultivators were engaged in agriculture, while artisans provided specialized goods and services.
Rural society was divided into groups based on their primary economic activities and contributions to the community. One group focused on tilling the land and producing food crops, which formed the basis of the economy. In contrast, the other group consisted of skilled specialists who manufactured essential items such as tools, textiles, and pottery. While both were integral to the village system, their roles and methods of compensation differed. This functional division ensured self-sufficiency and supported complex social interactions.

52. (C) The exploitation of the women dedicated to temples.
Although the institution began with the sacred purpose of serving the divine through religious rituals and classical arts, it eventually underwent a period of significant decline. Over time, the women involved often lost their high social status and became vulnerable to various forms of social and economic mistreatment. The original spiritual focus was overshadowed by practices that led to their marginalization and loss of autonomy. This complex history highlights how religious institutions can be affected by changing social norms.

53. (D) Roles in the state bureaucracy, judiciary, and religion.
The educational system was primarily geared toward producing skilled individuals capable of managing the complex affairs of the state and religious institutions. Students received training in subjects such as law, theology, philosophy, and administration, which were essential for careers as judges or administrators. This focus ensured that the government had a steady supply of well-versed officials to maintain the legal and social framework. These institutions were vital for the functioning of the state and the preservation of religious traditions.

54. (B) 4, 2, 1, 3
The succession of rulers in the prominent imperial dynasty followed a specific sequence that shaped the political history of the region. The initial establishment was followed by a period of struggle and restoration, after which a long-reigning monarch consolidated the empire and expanded its borders. Subsequent rulers inherited a stabilized state and focused on cultural development and further administrative refinements. This chronological order represents the rise and peak of imperial power, with each ruler contributing uniquely to the architectural legacy.

55. (C) Radha and Krishna
This seminal twelfth-century text explores the profound spiritual and emotional connection between the individual soul and the divine, personified through the legendary romance of two central figures. Through lyrical poetry, it describes the various stages of longing, separation, and eventual union, serving as a powerful allegory for the human quest for spiritual fulfillment. The work became a cornerstone of the devotional movement, inspiring countless artistic representations. Its focus on divine love and emotional intensity resonated deeply with practitioners and scholars.

56. (B) Kamandal (a water pot)
Members of the initiated community are required to maintain five specific external symbols that represent their commitment to the faith and its values. These articles include maintaining natural hair, carrying a special comb, wearing a steel bracelet, donning specific undergarments, and carrying a small sword. These symbols were intended to create a uniform identity, emphasizing discipline and readiness to defend the oppressed. While various other items might be used in spiritual practices across different traditions, they are not mandatory articles.

57. (D) Expertise in interpreting the Sharia (Islamic law).
The influence and authority of this intellectual group were rooted in their deep knowledge of religious texts and their ability to provide authoritative guidance on legal and moral matters. As specialists in divine law, they were responsible for advising the state and the community on how to live in accordance with spiritual principles. This expertise made them essential for the functioning of the judicial system. Their status as guardians of religious tradition allowed them to exert significant social and political influence.

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These itinerant cultivators often filled gaps in agricultural production, especially in regions with labor shortages. Their mobility was a key feature of the medieval agrarian economy, and their presence was encouraged by local landholders seeking to increase production.

88. (D) Literate and religiously educated individuals to serve the state and society.
These institutions of higher learning were established to provide a rigorous education in subjects like theology, law, and administrative sciences. The primary goal was to train a class of well-versed scholars and officials capable of managing the judicial and administrative needs of the empire. Graduates were expected to provide moral and legal guidance and to perform various roles within the government bureaucracy. By focusing on intellectual development, these centers played a vital role in preserving traditional knowledge.

89. (A) Regional Indo-Islamic architecture (Deccan).
This monumental structure features one of the largest unsupported domes in the world, representing the pinnacle of architectural achievement in a specific southern region. Its design reflects a fusion of central imperial influences and local innovations, characterized by its massive scale and unique acoustic properties. The building served as a final resting place for a local ruler and is a testament to the power of the kingdom during that era. This style is distinct from the northern courtly architecture.

90. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The architectural heritage of the medieval period is distributed across various cities, with each monument representing a different style or historical era. A world-famous marble tomb is located in the northern plains near the former imperial capital. A massive victory gateway stands in a ceremonial city built on a ridge. A regional power in the south constructed a tomb with an enormous dome, while another city in the central southern region is known for its landmark with four minarets.

91. (B) The Suhrawardi order
Unlike some other mystical traditions that preferred to distance themselves from political power, this specific order maintained a closer and often more cooperative relationship with the state. Its leaders believed that having influence over the ruling class could help in establishing stable religious institutions. This involvement often led to greater material prosperity and the ability to maintain large centers. Their approach was characterized by a focus on balancing mystical pursuits with the requirements of religious law and administrative responsibilities.

92. (A) Lord Vishnu
This celebrated eighth-century woman mystic is the only female among a group of twelve singer-saints who were pioneers of the devotional movement in the south. Her poetry, composed in the local language, expresses passionate and exclusive devotion to the preserver deity, often described through the imagery of a bride's love. Her verses are characterized by intense emotional depth and beautiful descriptions. Her contributions remain an integral part of the region's spiritual and literary traditions and its history.

93. (C) The Sikh Movement
This religious tradition places a fundamental emphasis on the concept of selfless service as a key part of spiritual life and community responsibility. Followers believe that helping others and contributing to social welfare is as important as personal prayer. This principle is practically demonstrated through institutions like communal kitchens where food is provided to everyone regardless of background. The focus on active engagement with the world reflects core values of equality, compassion, and the pursuit of a moral life.

94. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The imperial school of art reached a high level of refinement during the early seventeenth century due to personal interest and patronage of the ruling monarchs. They desired accurate and detailed depictions of themselves and the natural environment, which encouraged artists to develop a naturalistic style. This period saw a move away from stylized illustrations toward highly individualistic portraits and meticulous studies of plants and animals. The emphasis on technical precision became a defining characteristic of the school's style.

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stone. This material was prized for its strength and the ease with which it could be carved into intricate decorative patterns. Its distinct color gave monumental structures a robust and imposing appearance, symbolizing the power and stability of the expanding empire. The buildings often combined this stone with white marble for accents, creating a striking visual contrast in architecture.

66. (B) They made religion more personal, emotional, and accessible to the common people.
The most profound contribution of these spiritual movements was the transformation of religious life from a rigid, ritual-heavy practice into a more direct and emotional experience. By emphasizing love and devotion as the primary means of reaching the divine, they bypassed the need for complex ceremonies and intermediaries. This shift allowed individuals from all social backgrounds to participate fully in spiritual life. The use of local languages further ensured that teachings reached the masses, fostering a widespread sense of spiritual empowerment.

67. (B) Naam Japo (meditating on God's name)
The founder of the faith taught that the primary way to achieve spiritual liberation is through the constant remembrance and meditation on the divine presence. This practice focuses the mind on the attributes of the one creator, fostering internal transformation and a sense of closeness to God. It is often combined with leading an honest life and serving others, creating a holistic path to spiritual and moral growth. By prioritizing internal devotion over external rituals, the teachings provided accessibility.

68. (A) A final, desperate fight to the death by men and collective self-immolation by women in the face of certain defeat.
These practices were deeply rooted in the martial code and sense of honor of the warrior clans during the medieval period. When faced with an unavoidable defeat at the hands of an invading force, the community chose to maintain their dignity through ultimate sacrifice. The men would don ceremonial robes and charge into the final battle, while the women performed a ritual of self-immolation to protect themselves from capture. These extreme acts reflected the high value placed on clan loyalty.

69. (C) 2, 3 and 4
The experiences of women during the medieval period were varied, encompassing restrictive social customs as well as instances of significant spiritual and political authority. Some women were dedicated to religious service within temples, while others rose to become influential mystics who challenged traditional social norms through their devotion. In some cases, women even held the highest political power, demonstrating their capability to rule. These diverse roles highlight that while many faced limitations, there were individuals who managed to exert influence.

70. (D) Amir Khusrau
This versatile thirteenth-century scholar and poet is credited with significant innovations in the musical and literary traditions of the subcontinent. He pioneered the fusion of indigenous melodic structures with Perso-Arabic influences, leading to the creation of new musical genres and instruments. His work facilitated a cultural dialogue that enriched the performing arts and laid the foundation for future developments. By blending diverse elements, he created a unique aesthetic that reflected the syncretic spirit of the era, impacting culture deeply.

71. (C) Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate (Indo-Islamic).
This historical complex features one of the earliest and most iconic examples of the architectural synthesis that occurred after the establishment of the Sultanate in northern India. The centerpiece is a soaring tower that displays both indigenous craftsmanship and imported structural and decorative elements, such as the use of the arch. The buildings within the complex utilized materials from earlier structures, creatively repurposing them to suit the new architectural vision. This landmark represents the beginning of a distinctive style.

72. (B) The idea that all existence is a manifestation of divine reality.
This philosophical concept posits that there is an essential oneness underlying all of creation, and that the universe is not separate from the creator. According to this view, everything in the world is a reflection of the divine presence, and the ultimate goal is to realize this unity. This

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belief encouraged a more inclusive and tolerant outlook, as it recognized the divine in all people and things. It played a significant role in Sufi thought.

73. (D) A personal God with specific attributes and form, such as Krishna or Rama.
This stream of the devotional movement focused on the worship of the divine through specific, tangible forms and personalities. Adherents believed that God manifests in the world through various incarnations, making the divine more relatable and accessible. Devotion was expressed through rituals and the veneration of images, which served as focal points for emotional connection. This approach celebrated the stories and qualities of the deities, fostering a deep relationship between the devotee and the divine.

74. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The tenth Guru formalized a distinct identity for his followers by establishing a community of initiated individuals with a unique code of conduct. This institution combined spiritual devotion with military discipline, creating a body of "saint-soldiers" dedicated to protecting religious freedom and resisting tyranny. The introduction of specific external symbols helped to unify the community and provide a clear sense of belonging and purpose. These reforms were essential for the survival and growth of the community during persecution.

75. (C) The Cultivators
This large segment of the population was responsible for tilling the land and producing the food crops that sustained the entire society and provided the primary source of revenue for the state. They were the foundation of the rural economy, and their labor supported the complex social and political hierarchies of the period. While they faced various challenges, including high revenue demands, their role was central to the functioning and stability of the empire and rural society.

76. (A) It is the first Mughal structure built completely of white marble and making extensive use of pietra dura.
This seventeenth-century monument represents a significant shift in imperial architecture, moving away from the robust red sandstone of earlier periods toward a more delicate and refined aesthetic. It is celebrated as the first major structure to be constructed entirely from white marble and to feature extensive use of a sophisticated decorative inlay technique. These features served as a direct precursor to more famous masterpieces. The building's intricate craftsmanship and luxurious materials reflect the immense wealth and artistic sensibilities.

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77. (D) Guru Nanak Dev
The founder of the faith was a profound spiritual leader who preached a message of universal love, social equality, and devotion to a single, formless creator. He traveled extensively, spreading his teachings and challenging rigid social orthodoxies of his time. His message focused on the importance of moral integrity, honest living, and selfless service to humanity. He established a community based on these principles, which evolved into an influential religious tradition. His hymns remain the spiritual foundation.

78. (B) Worship of the divine feminine principle, or Devi.
This significant religious tradition focuses on the veneration of the supreme power as a feminine force, often personified as the Goddess. Adherents believe that this divine energy is the source of all existence and the active power that drives the universe. The movement includes a wide variety of practices, from gentle devotional acts to complex rituals aimed at harnessing spiritual power. It emphasizes the importance of the mother figure as a symbol of creation and transformation.

79. (C) Wool, referring to the coarse woolen garments worn by early ascetics.
The term used to describe these practitioners of the mystical path is believed to be connected to the simple clothing they adopted as a sign of renunciation of worldly luxuries. These early seekers emphasized inner spiritual purity and a direct emotional connection with the divine over outward displays of status. By wearing coarse materials, they symbolized their commitment to a life of humility and devotion. This ascetic lifestyle was a key feature of the early stages of the movement.

80. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
Medieval society was organized into several distinct layers, each with its own role and status. The ruling elite, composed of high-ranking officials, held the most power. They were supported by intellectual scholars who provided guidance on legal matters. Economic activities were driven by a mercantile class of traders who managed resources. Additionally, some social groups were structured around clan ties, maintaining a sense of honor. While artisans were vital, they were distinct from those primarily in agriculture.

81. (A) His wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
This world-renowned monument was commissioned by the fifth emperor of the dynasty to serve as a final resting place for his beloved consort. It is considered the ultimate masterpiece of imperial architecture, representing the pinnacle of refined style using white marble and intricate decorative techniques. The building's perfect symmetry and its beautiful garden setting were intended to create an earthly reflection of paradise. Thousands of skilled craftsmen were employed to complete this project, which remains an iconic symbol.

82. (B) Pahari School
These two distinctive artistic styles are part of a broader tradition that flourished in the mountainous regions of northern India. One is known for its bold colors and powerful emotional expression, while the other is celebrated for its delicate lines and lyrical, romantic themes. Both styles drew heavily from local folklore and devotional literature, particularly stories centered on divine love. These traditions were nurtured by local patronage and reflect the aesthetic sensibilities of the hill states and their cultures.

83. (A) The promotion of regional languages and musical forms like Qawwali.
The mystical orders played a vital role in cultural development by using local dialects and creative arts to communicate their spiritual messages. By composing poetry in the language of the common people, they helped to elevate regional tongues and make spiritual ideas more accessible. They also pioneered unique musical genres that were performed at shrines to induce spiritual ecstasy. These activities contributed to a rich and inclusive cultural environment, bridging gaps between different social and religious groups.

84. (C) Maharashtra
This prominent devotional tradition is centered on a deity regarded as a manifestation of the preserver god, with its primary center in a sacred town in the central western region. Adherents emphasize ethical conduct, social equality, and the importance of a recurring pilgrimage to the holy site. They express devotion through a specific form of rhythmic poetry that has been preserved by numerous saints. This movement played a crucial role in shaping regional identity and fostering spiritual unity.

85. (B) 4, 1, 3, 2
The history of religious and spiritual movements is marked by the emergence of various traditions at different points in time. Initial developments in the south focused on social reform and the critique of ritualism, followed by the establishment of influential mystical orders in the north. Later, the systematic organization of teachings into an authoritative scripture provided a stronger identity. Finally, the formalization of this community into a disciplined socio-religious body represented a significant turn toward organized defense and identity.

86. (B) Mormons
During the medieval period, the Indian subcontinent was home to several major religious communities that coexisted and interacted in a complex social and political environment. The vast majority of the population followed traditions that focused on personal devotion or Islamic principles brought by traders. Additionally, a distinct spiritual path emerged founded on the teachings of a series of spiritual leaders. While various smaller groups also existed, certain modern organizations were not part of the historical landscape of the region.

87. (C) Non-resident cultivators who tilled land in a village other than their own.
Rural society included different categories of farmers based on their relationship with the land. While some individuals lived and worked on ancestral plots within their own village, others traveled to neighboring areas to farm land under various contractual arrangements.

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in the architectural landscape, producing some of the most iconic structures of the era.

30. (D) A blend of imperial Sultanate or Mughal features with local traditions and materials.
Architectural development in various provinces was characterized by the creative integration of central courtly styles with indigenous building methods and climate-appropriate materials. Local builders often adapted imperial elements, like arches and domes, using available resources such as brick, timber, or specific stones to suit regional needs. This resulted in a diverse array of unique styles that reflected both the political influence of central authority and the persistent cultural identity of local populations. These regional variations added rich complexity.

31. (A) Shaikh Baha-ud-din Zakariya
This influential mystic was responsible for introducing a prominent Sufi order to the northwestern regions of the subcontinent. Unlike some other mystical traditions that avoided official associations, his order maintained a more favorable relationship with the state, which helped in establishing stable institutions. He focused on the spiritual training of his followers and the importance of adhering to religious laws while pursuing mystical insights. His efforts led to the creation of a strong organizational structure in the region's religious life.

32. (B) Shaivism
This devotional tradition centers on the veneration of the deity Shiva as the supreme source of creation and transformation. Adherents seek to cultivate a deep, personal connection with the divine through meditation, yoga, and the chanting of sacred hymns. The movement encompasses a wide range of practices, from the philosophical teachings of scholars to the emotional outbursts of wandering singer-saints. It emphasizes internal realization of the divine presence and has played a foundational role in shaping the spiritual landscape.

33. (B) They all belonged to a single, organized religious order.
Women mystics during this period emerged from varied social backgrounds and expressed their devotion through diverse paths, rather than a centralized organization. They often utilized their poetry to voice personal spiritual experiences and occasionally to critique patriarchal constraints. Figures from different regions and communities gained prominence by advocating for direct access to the divine, regardless of social standing. Their contributions are significant for providing unique perspectives within the broader devotional movement and enriching the religious and literary heritage.

34. (A) Traders, bankers, and physicians.
This segment of society comprised individuals who provided essential commercial and specialized services within urban and rural settings. It included those engaged in long-distance trade, money-lending, and specialized occupations such as medicine and accounting. These groups were vital for the functioning of the economy and the administration of the state, often possessing significant wealth and social influence. Their expertise ensured the smooth flow of goods and capital, and their professional skills supported the administrative needs of society.

35. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The architectural landscape featured a variety of specialized elements and structures that served religious, defensive, or ceremonial purposes. Intricate latticed screens were used for ventilation and privacy, while tall towers provided a focal point for calling the faithful to prayer. Massive gateways were often constructed to mark significant victories or the entrances to imperial cities. Additionally, the innermost sanctum of religious buildings remained a crucial space for the primary deity or relic. These features reflect diverse influences and functions.

36. (D) Jaunpur
This city rose to prominence as a major center for learning and culture, particularly during the fifteenth century. It attracted numerous scholars, poets, and theologians, earning a reputation for intellectual excellence that rivaled international centers. The patronage of local rulers fostered the development of sophisticated educational institutions and unique architectural styles. This vibrant intellectual atmosphere made it a destination for those seeking knowledge in various sciences and arts, leaving a lasting impact on the academic and cultural history.

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95. (D) Physicians (hakims), teachers, and scribes.
This segment of society consisted of individuals who provided specialized intellectual and technical services required by the state and the community. It included those trained in traditional medicine, educators responsible for instruction, and professionals skilled in administrative tasks like record-keeping. These groups often held a respected social position due to their specialized knowledge. Their work was essential for health, education, and the smooth functioning of the government bureaucracy. They formed an important part of the urban middle class.

96. (C) Upper classes and aristocracy in urban centers.
The practice of secluding women from public view became more prevalent among the elite sections of society during this era. This custom was often seen as a mark of high social status and was intended to ensure privacy and protection of women from royal and noble families. It was most strictly observed in urban areas and within imperial and local courts. While it had deep social roots, its implementation varied significantly, being less common among the laboring classes in rural regions.

97. (B) Perforated screen with ornamental patterns.
This distinctive architectural element consists of an intricately carved screen, often made from stone or marble, featuring delicate geometric or floral designs. It was used in mosques, tombs, and palaces to provide ventilation and filtered light while ensuring privacy. The craftsmanship involved displayed the high skill level of local artisans and added refined aesthetic quality to monumental buildings. These screens served as beautiful decorative features, allowing for a creative interplay between light and shadow within the interior spaces of structures.

98. (D) The innermost, most strongly defended citadel on the highest point.
These hilltop fortifications were designed with multiple layers of defense to protect the most sensitive areas of the stronghold. The most secure part of the complex was typically located at the highest elevation, serving as the final refuge for leaders and their followers during an attack. This innermost area often housed the command center and primary residential quarters, surrounded by thick walls and guarded gates. Its strategic position provided a clear view, making it difficult for invaders to capture.

99. (A) A pilgrimage to the tomb of a revered saint.
This spiritual practice involves visiting the final resting place of a holy person to seek blessings and express devotion. For many followers, these shrines are seen as places where the saint's spiritual presence remains particularly strong. The act of pilgrimage often includes specific rituals like offering flowers and listening to devotional music. These sites became important centers for social and religious gathering, attracting people from various faiths. This tradition played a crucial role in spreading mystical ideals.

100. (B) 2 and 4 only
This significant religious tradition emerged founded on a message of monotheism and the fundamental equality of all people regardless of their social background. Its central scripture is a unique compilation that includes the hymns and teachings of the faith's founders as well as other spiritual leaders. The movement emphasizes leading an ethical life through honest work and meditation on the divine presence. Over time, it developed strong institutions that promoted social justice and community welfare, providing a distinct identity.

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101. (C) Tulsidas
This sixteenth-century poet and saint is highly revered for his monumental contribution to devotional literature in a regional dialect. His most famous work narrates the life and deeds of a divine incarnation, making the spiritual epic accessible to the common population who did not speak classical languages. By emphasizing intense devotion and the moral virtues of the deity, he played a crucial role in popularizing the worship of this personal god across northern India.

102. (A) Mansabdari system
The imperial administration was organized through a unique hierarchical structure that determined the rank and pay of all government and military officials. This system categorized individuals based on their military obligations and administrative responsibilities, assigning

monuments showcase the sophisticated aesthetic and cultural identity of the region.

159. (A) Spiritual master or guide.
This term refers to a highly respected figure in the mystical path who provides spiritual training and guidance to a group of followers. The relationship between the master and the disciple is central to the tradition, as the master is believed to possess the wisdom and divine knowledge necessary to lead others toward spiritual realization. Through their teachings and personal example, they help their disciples overcome worldly attachments and achieve a deeper connection with the divine creator within the mystical orders.

160. (B) Karnataka
This significant social and religious movement emerged in the southern central region during the twelfth century, emphasizing the worship of a single deity and the rejection of caste-based discrimination. Founded by a profound philosopher and saint, the movement advocated for spiritual equality and the importance of leading an ethical life through honest work and devotion. The followers produced a rich body of literature in the local language, which remains a central part of the regional cultural identity. This tradition continues to be influential.

161. (A) 1 and 3 only
The educational landscape was characterized by a structured system of primary and higher institutions that provided instruction in both religious and secular subjects. Primary centers focused on fundamental skills and basic religious knowledge, while more advanced institutions offered training in law, theology, and philosophy to prepare students for professional careers. The funding for these schools was primarily derived from royal grants and private endowments, which ensured their continued operation. This system was vital for maintaining a literate and well-versed administrative and intellectual class.

162. (A) One spirit or divine light manifesting in ten different bodies.
The series of spiritual guides who founded and shaped the religious tradition are collectively viewed as manifesting a single, continuous divine light. Each guide contributed to the development of the faith's teachings and institutions, ensuring a consistent message of monotheism, social equality, and moral integrity. This belief emphasizes the spiritual unity and authority of the guides, whose collective work provided a strong foundation for the community's identity. Their legacy is preserved in the sacred scripture that serves as the eternal teacher.

163. (C) Patriarchal and clan-based
The social structure of this warrior group was organized around a rigid hierarchy of kinship and clan lineage, with power and status being determined by birth and family connections. Authority within the community was typically held by male elders, and the social identity was rooted in the prestige of the respective clans. This structure emphasized loyalty to the family and the protection of ancestral honor, which were central to the community's values. These clan-based ties influenced political alliances and the distribution of land.

164. (D) The private and secluded residential areas for the royal women.
These secluded residential quarters were reserved for the female members of the imperial household, providing them with a private and protected environment in accordance with the social norms of the period. Within these spaces, women managed their own social lives and engaged in various cultural, administrative, and religious activities. The arrangement ensured that the royal women were separated from the public and male-dominated areas of the court, reflecting the hierarchical and gender-segregated nature of the elite society during the medieval era.

165. (C) Pahari painting
This artistic tradition developed in the mountainous regions of northern India and is broadly classified based on its geographic origin in the hill states. The style is celebrated for its lyrical and romantic themes, often depicting divine love and legendary stories in lush, scenic landscapes. The works are characterized by delicate lines and refined colors, reflecting the aesthetic sensibilities of the regional courts and their patrons. This school remains a vital part of the artistic heritage, showcasing regional creativity and skill.

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This sixteenth-century royal princess is one of the most celebrated figures in the devotional movement, known for her passionate hymns dedicated to her divine beloved. She famously abandoned her aristocratic life to pursue a path of spiritual devotion, challenging the social norms and patriarchal expectations of her time. Her poetry, composed in the local language, expresses an intense and personal relationship with the divine. Her legacy continues to inspire millions with its message of unwavering faith and spiritual courage.

111. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
The architectural and artistic landscape of the era was characterized by a unique blend of indigenous and imported structural techniques. Innovative garden designs featuring symmetrical layouts and flowing water were introduced, alongside sophisticated decorative methods like inlaying semi-precious stones into marble. While some regional styles focused on religious narratives, the overall development reflected a rich cultural synthesis. These advancements in building and art were patronized by the ruling elite, resulting in monumental structures that symbolized the power and refinement of the medieval empires.

112. (D) The Learned Ones
This term refers to the community of scholars who were highly respected for their deep knowledge of religious texts, law, and theology. They were responsible for interpreting the sacred teachings and providing guidance to the people on how to live in accordance with spiritual principles. Their intellectual authority made them essential for the functioning of the judicial system and the management of educational institutions. As guardians of tradition, they exerted significant social influence across all levels of society during the period.

113. (C) Seclusion and the observance of purdah.
These private residential quarters were reserved for the female members of royal and noble households, reflecting the social norms of the period regarding privacy and modesty. The arrangement ensured that women lived in a protected environment, separated from the public and male-dominated spaces of the court. Within these areas, women managed their own social hierarchy and engaged in various cultural and administrative activities. The system was a defining feature of the aristocratic lifestyle, emphasizing the hierarchical structure of society.

114. (D) Rajasthani School
This specific sub-school is famous for its unique and highly stylized portrayals of divine beauty and romantic themes. The paintings are characterized by distinctive features like elongated eyes and graceful poses, often depicting legendary lovers in idyllic settings. This artistic tradition developed under the patronage of regional rulers and reflects the refined aesthetic sensibilities and spiritual devotion of the time. It is a vital part of the broader artistic heritage, showcasing the creativity and technical excellence of regional painters.

115. (A) 2, 4, 3, 1
The development of monumental architecture followed a specific timeline, starting with early towers and mosques in the capital. This was followed by the creation of the first major garden-tomb, which set the standard for future imperial funerary structures. Later, a vast ceremonial city was built, showcasing a variety of palace and religious building designs. Finally, the construction of the most famous marble mausoleum represented the peak of refined architectural achievement. This progression reflects the evolution of building techniques and imperial power over centuries.

116. (B) Dargah
This term refers to the shrine or tomb of a revered mystic, which serves as a significant center for pilgrimage and spiritual gathering. It is believed that the spiritual energy of the saint remains present at the site, attracting followers from various backgrounds seeking blessings and guidance. These shrines often include various other structures like mosques and hospices to accommodate the needs of visitors. They are essential hubs of social and cultural activity, fostering a sense of community and devotion.

117. (A) Ramananda, Kabir, and Guru Nanak
The devotional movement was popularized in the northern regions by a group of influential saints who emphasized personal devotion over rigid rituals. They came from diverse backgrounds and

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achievements. This landmark is one of the most iconic examples of the ceremonial architecture developed during that period.

132. (B) A wide range of landholders, from petty chieftains to large autonomous rulers.
This term was used to describe various categories of individuals who held traditional or state-granted rights over land and the collection of revenue from it. It encompassed a diverse group, from small local chiefs who controlled a few villages to powerful regional rulers who managed vast territories. Their status and authority were rooted in their control over rural resources and their role as intermediaries between the central state and the peasantry. They were essential for the administrative and economic stability of the empire.

133. (D) Southern India and parts of the Deccan
This historical practice of dedicating women to temple service was most common in the southern and central regions of the subcontinent. These women were highly skilled in sacred arts such as dance and music, which were essential for temple rituals and festivals. While originally held in high religious and social esteem, the institution was deeply affected by changing social and political conditions over centuries. It remains a notable aspect of the cultural and religious history of these specific geographic areas throughout the medieval period.

134. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Imperial architecture reached a peak of refinement during the mid-seventeenth century, characterized by a move away from robust designs toward more delicate and ornate structures. The extensive use of white marble and sophisticated decorative inlay techniques gave the buildings a more graceful and feminine appearance compared to earlier periods. This transition was driven by the desire of the ruler to create magnificent monuments that displayed immense wealth and refined aesthetic tastes. These features resulted in some of the most beautiful and iconic buildings.

135. (C) Hills
This artistic tradition flourished in the mountainous regions of northern India, particularly in the small states located in the Himalayan foothills. The style is celebrated for its lyrical and romantic themes, often depicting legendary lovers and religious narratives in lush, scenic landscapes. The works are characterized by delicate lines and a refined use of color, reflecting the aesthetic and spiritual sensibilities of the regional courts. This school played a vital role in preserving and promoting the cultural identity of the hill communities.

136. (B) Yogic practices (Pranayama)
Certain mystical traditions in the subcontinent adopted specific physical disciplines to enhance their spiritual concentration and meditation. These techniques, which focus on the regulation of breath, show a significant influence from indigenous traditions that have long used such methods for mental and spiritual clarity. By integrating these practices, the mystics sought to achieve a higher state of consciousness and a deeper connection with the divine. This interaction demonstrates the syncretic nature of the spiritual movements that developed during the medieval period across various regions.

137. (D) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
This sixteenth-century saint from the eastern plains revolutionized the devotional movement by emphasizing ecstatic devotion and congregational singing. He popularized the worship of the divine through public performances of hymns and dances, which brought together people from all social backgrounds. His message of universal love and personal devotion had a profound impact on the religious life of the region, making spirituality more accessible and emotional for common people. His followers established a strong and vibrant tradition that continues to be influential today.

138. (A) Equality and service, as everyone eats together regardless of caste or creed.
This institution was established to promote the fundamental principles of social equality and selfless service within the community. By requiring everyone to sit and eat together from a common kitchen, it effectively challenged the rigid social hierarchies and dietary restrictions of the time. This practice emphasized that all human beings are spiritually equal and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. It serves

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the size of the spans. In contrast, the newer tradition introduced the arch and the dome, allowing for larger, more imposing structures with grand, open interiors. This architectural transition revolutionized the landscape of the subcontinent, producing a unique synthesis of styles that defined the monumental building period.

125. (C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The religious community is defined by various unique practices and institutions that foster a sense of equality and unity. These include gatherings for congregational worship and the tradition of sharing a common meal, which is open to everyone regardless of their social background. Additionally, the initiated members form a distinct body with its own code of conduct and symbols. The place of worship serves as the hub for these activities, providing spiritual guidance and communal support. These elements are essential for the faith.

126. (D) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
This highly revered mystic arrived in the subcontinent during the late twelfth century and founded the most influential mystical order in the region. He settled in Ajmer, where his teachings emphasized simplicity, love for humanity, and the importance of spiritual devotion over rigid rituals. His shrine became a major center for pilgrimage, attracting people from all walks of life and symbolizing the inclusive nature of his message. His followers played a vital role in spreading mystical ideals throughout medieval India.

127. (B) Ramanuja
This eleventh-century philosopher and saint provided a strong intellectual foundation for the devotional movement by advocating for a qualified form of monism. He taught that the individual soul and the world are real and are related to the ultimate divine as parts to a whole. This philosophy emphasized the importance of devotion and surrender as the primary means of attaining spiritual liberation. His teachings significantly influenced the later development of various devotional traditions and made complex spiritual ideas more accessible to common people.

128. (C) Nirguna saints worshipped a formless God, while Saguna saints worshipped God with form.
The devotional movement was divided into two main streams based on the way they perceived and worshipped the divine. One group focused on the worship of a transcendent, formless creator who could not be limited by physical descriptions or rituals. The other group focused on a personal deity with specific attributes and incarnations, making the divine more relatable to human understanding through images and stories. Both paths emphasized personal devotion but differed significantly in their philosophical outlook and methods of worship.

129. (D) Created a standardized and authoritative scripture for the faith.
The systematic organization of hymns and teachings into a single sacred text was a crucial step in formalizing the identity of the community. This scripture provided a definitive source of spiritual guidance and established a clear set of beliefs and ethical standards for the followers. By including the works of various mystics from different backgrounds, it also reflected a message of universal truth and social equality. This standardized text became the focal point for religious life and communal unity.

130. (A) 1, 2 and 4
This social group was organized around a rigid structure of clan and lineage, with a deep commitment to their ancestral heritage. Their code of conduct prioritized bravery, martial prowess, and personal honor, which were highly valued across the community. Women were also held in high esteem for their role in upholding family dignity, often demonstrating extreme courage in the face of defeat. Their identity was rooted in their role as protectors of the land and their commitment to their respective territories.

131. (C) Gujarat
This monumental gateway was built by the imperial ruler to commemorate his successful military campaign in the western coastal region. It stands as a symbol of victory and power, showcasing the architectural grandeur and structural innovation of the era. The massive scale and intricate decorative features of the structure reflect the pride of the dynasty and their desire to create lasting memorials of their

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them a numerical rank that reflected their status. It allowed the state to maintain a large and disciplined military force while ensuring efficient collection and distribution of resources. This merit-based arrangement was essential for managing the vast territories of the empire.

103. (D) Local providers compensated via harvest shares or specific land grants.
Rural specialists who provided essential goods and services were integrated into the village economy through traditional systems of exchange. Rather than receiving cash payments for each task, these individuals were typically given a fixed portion of the annual harvest by the cultivators they served. In some cases, they were granted small plots of tax-free land for their maintenance. This arrangement ensured the availability of necessary skills like blacksmithing and carpentry within the self-sufficient village community.

104. (B) Guru Granth Sahib
This sacred text is the eternal spiritual authority for the faith, following the end of the line of human guides. It contains a collection of divine hymns and teachings from the founders and other mystics, emphasizing monotheism, social equality, and moral integrity. The scripture is treated with the highest respect and serves as the ultimate source of guidance for personal and communal life. Its presence in the place of worship provides the focal point for all religious activities.

105. (C) The lyrical and romantic tales of Radha and Krishna.
This artistic tradition is renowned for its graceful portrayal of divine romance and the deep emotions associated with spiritual longing. The paintings often depict legendary lovers in lush, hilly landscapes, using delicate lines and muted colors to evoke a sense of poetic beauty. These themes were drawn from the devotional literature of the time, reflecting the spiritual aspirations and aesthetic tastes of the regional courts. The focus on sentimental narratives made this school highly popular and culturally significant.

106. (D) Trabeate style
This traditional building method relies on the use of horizontal beams supported by vertical columns to span distances and create structural stability. It was the primary technique used in ancient and early medieval architecture across the subcontinent, characterizing numerous temples and public buildings. While later styles introduced arches and domes, this pillar-and-beam system continued to be used for its aesthetic appeal and structural simplicity. It often allowed for extensive surface carving and the creation of elaborate decorative motifs on the beams.

107. (A) The Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar
This imperial garden is a masterpiece of the formal layout that uses a central axis and water channels to divide the space into symmetrical quadrants. Built on a series of terraces overlooking a large lake, it combines architectural precision with the natural beauty of trees and mountains. The presence of flowing water and stone pavilions reflects the refined aesthetic of the ruling dynasty and their desire to create a serene earthly paradise. It remains a celebrated example.

108. (B) Absolute trust and reliance on God.
This core principle in the mystical path emphasizes the complete surrender of the self to the divine will. Practitioners believe that a true seeker must rely entirely on the creator for all their needs, both spiritual and material, rather than on their own efforts or worldly resources. This state of inner peace and detachment allows the devotee to remain steadfast in their faith regardless of external circumstances. It is considered an essential step toward achieving higher spiritual realization.

109. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Spiritual leaders during this period consciously chose to express their teachings in the dialects spoken by the masses rather than in formal, scholarly languages. This approach was instrumental in making complex religious ideas accessible to the general population, who were often excluded from formal education. By using the language of everyday life, the saints were able to build a direct and emotional connection with their followers. This strategy also contributed significantly to the development and richness of regional literature.

110. (B) Mirabai

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as a practical model for building a harmonious and inclusive society based on mutual care and support.

139. (C) The Emperor
At the very top of the social and political hierarchy stood the monarch, who held absolute authority over all aspects of the state and administration. As the supreme leader, he was the final decision-maker in matters of policy, justice, and military command. His status was unparalleled, and he served as the ultimate patron of art, religion, and culture throughout his vast territories. All other ranks of the nobility and the ruling class were subordinate to his power and derived their authority from him.

140. (A) Tall shikhara (towers) of the Nagara style
The architectural style developed during the imperial period is defined by specific features such as the use of the arch, the dome, and symmetrical garden layouts. These elements were often combined with sophisticated decorative techniques like stone inlay and intricate carvings. However, certain traditional features common in older temple architecture, such as soaring curvilinear towers, were generally not incorporated into the imperial designs. This distinction highlights the unique synthesis of indigenous and imported techniques that characterized the monumental structures built by the medieval rulers.

141. (D) Advise the ruler on Islamic law and act as judges (qazis).
This intellectual group played a crucial role in the state by providing authoritative guidance on religious and legal matters. As specialists in divine law, they were responsible for ensuring that the administration and the judiciary functioned in accordance with spiritual principles. They served as advisors to the monarch and occupied high positions in the legal system, where they presided over disputes and delivered judgments. Their influence ensured that the state maintained its religious legitimacy and upheld the legal framework of society.

142. (B) Khud-kashta
This term was used to describe resident farmers who cultivated their own ancestral or hereditary lands within their village. As owner-cultivators, they held a relatively stable and secure position in rural society compared to other categories of peasants. They were responsible for paying land revenue directly to the state or its intermediaries and formed the backbone of the village community. Their long-term connection to the land and the local social structure gave them significant status and influence within the rural economy.

143. (C) A parallel system of traditional pathshalas and Islamic maktabs/madarasas co-existed.
The educational landscape during this period was characterized by the coexistence of diverse institutions catering to the needs of different communities and social groups. Traditional centers of learning continued to provide instruction in indigenous subjects, while new schools were established to offer education in religious sciences, law, and administrative skills. This parallel system ensured that students could receive training in accordance with their own cultural and religious traditions. Both types of institutions were supported by royal patronage and private endowments, contributing to a rich intellectual climate.

144. (D) All of the above
The devotional movement was shaped by numerous influential figures who emerged from various backgrounds and regions, each contributing unique perspectives to the spiritual landscape. These saints used different methods such as hymns, poetry, and congregational singing to spread their messages of personal devotion and social equality. By preaching in local dialects and challenging existing social norms, they made spirituality accessible and meaningful to the common people. Their collective efforts significantly enriched regional literature and fostered a sense of spiritual unity across the diverse populations of the subcontinent.

145. (A) Moinuddin Chishti
The final resting place of this highly revered mystic is one of the most important centers of pilgrimage in the region, attracting millions of devotees from various faiths. He is celebrated for introducing a major mystical order that emphasized universal love, simplicity, and spiritual devotion over outward rituals. His shrine serves as a powerful symbol of communal harmony and the inclusive

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spirit of the mystical movement. The site remains a focal point for religious and social activity, continuing to influence the spiritual life of the subcontinent.

146. (B) Shankaradeva
This fifteenth-century saint and reformer was instrumental in popularizing the devotional movement in the northeastern region by emphasizing the worship of a single deity. He introduced new forms of religious and cultural expression, including music, dance, and drama, which were used to spread his message of spiritual equality and moral integrity. His efforts led to the creation of a distinct and vibrant spiritual tradition that continues to be central to the regional identity. He encouraged followers to lead a disciplined life focused on devotion and service.

147. (B) It gave the Sikh community a formal, disciplined, and distinct religio-military identity.
The establishment of this initiated community was a transformative event that provided the followers with a strong sense of purpose and a unified identity. By introducing a specific code of conduct and external symbols, the tenth Guru created a body of dedicated individuals who were prepared to defend their faith and protect the oppressed. This new structure combined spiritual devotion with military discipline, enabling the community to resist persecution and maintain their values in a challenging political environment. It marked a significant step in the organization.

148. (A) The first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
This sixteenth-century monument is architecturally significant as it introduced the concept of a grand mausoleum set within a formal, symmetrical garden. Its design features a central dome and a multi-chambered layout, which served as a prototype for later and more famous imperial funerary structures. The use of red sandstone with white marble accents and the innovative garden layout reflected the influence of regional and imported traditions. This structure represents a major milestone in the development of monumental architecture and the imperial aesthetic.

149. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The artistic landscape of the period was characterized by several major schools of painting, each with its own distinctive features and areas of focus. The imperial school specialized in realistic portraiture and depictions of courtly life, while regional styles in the plains used bold colors to portray local heroes and mythology. In the mountainous areas, lyrical and romantic themes centered on divine love became prominent, often featuring delicate lines and refined colors. These various traditions reflect the diversity of cultural and spiritual aspirations across the subcontinent during this era.

150. (B) Functional and defensive
These hilltop fortifications were primarily designed to provide maximum security and strategic advantage in a rugged terrain. Their construction prioritized military features such as thick walls, massive bastions, and multiple layers of gates to ensure resilience against invaders. The layout was carefully planned to control access and provide clear views of the surrounding landscape, allowing for effective surveillance and defense. While they served as administrative centers, their primary role was to act as strongholds that could withstand prolonged sieges and protect the regional territory.

151. (D) Baba Farid
This influential thirteenth-century mystic is highly revered for his simple life and profound poetry, which emphasized the importance of humility and devotion. He was a prominent member of a major mystical order and is famous for his sweet temperament and commitment to serving humanity. His verses, composed in the local language, are even included in the sacred scripture of another faith, reflecting his widespread influence and the universal appeal of his message. His shrine continues to be a major center for pilgrimage and spiritual gathering today.

152. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The devotional movement was not a monolithic entity but rather a collection of diverse regional movements that emerged over several centuries. Each branch had its own leaders and focused on various deities, yet they all shared common

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themes of personal devotion and the critique of social hierarchies. This diversity allowed the movement to resonate with people from different backgrounds and locations, contributing to its widespread popularity and lasting impact. The various regional expressions together transformed the spiritual and cultural landscape of the entire subcontinent.

153. (A) They provided an alternative spiritual path for women and often challenged social conventions through their lives and works.
The emergence of influential woman mystics during this period offered a unique perspective within the devotional movement and provided new opportunities for spiritual expression. By dedicating their lives to the divine, these women often transcended traditional gender roles and challenged the social and patriarchal constraints of their time. Their poetry and teachings reflected their personal spiritual journeys and their commitment to a life of devotion and independence. Their legacy continues to inspire many by demonstrating the power of faith and the possibility of spiritual realization.

154. (C) Control over land and the right to collect revenue from it.
The status and power of the elite group during this period were primarily rooted in their control over rural resources and their authority to collect taxes from the peasantry. This control was granted by the state in the form of land assignments or hereditary rights, which provided them with substantial wealth and the means to maintain their high social standing. Their relationship with the land and the rural population was central to the administrative and economic functioning of the empire. This resource-based system defined the social structure.

155. (D) A system of reciprocal exchange of services and goods between different caste groups (e.g., cultivators and artisans).
This traditional social and economic arrangement was based on long-standing relationships between different groups within the village community. Cultivators received essential services and products from specialists like blacksmiths and carpenters, and in return, they provided these specialists with a fixed share of the harvest. This system ensured the self-sufficiency of the village and maintained a stable social hierarchy through mutual obligations and support. It was a key feature of rural life for centuries, governing how resources and labor were distributed across different community segments.

156. (B) The desire to create lasting memorials that symbolized power, piety, and dynastic legacy.
The construction of monumental tombs served multiple purposes beyond providing a final resting place for the deceased. These majestic structures were intended to showcase the immense wealth and religious devotion of the ruling elite, while also serving as enduring symbols of their political authority and family legacy. By commissioning such grand projects, rulers aimed to leave a permanent mark on the landscape and be remembered for generations. These monuments reflected the sophisticated aesthetic values and cultural aspirations of the period, combining architecture and memory.

157. (C) The complete abandonment of traditional Indian classical music (Dhrupad).
Musical development during this period was characterized by a vibrant synthesis of indigenous melodic structures with influences from other traditions, leading to the creation of new genres and styles. While new forms like the lyrical and expressive songs of the court gained popularity, traditional classical forms continued to be patronized and practiced. This period saw a creative fusion that enriched the performing arts and laid the foundation for future musical developments. The interaction between different systems resulted in a diverse and sophisticated musical heritage.

158. (D) Delicate and ornate stone carving, seen in its mosques and step-wells.
The regional architecture of this coastal area is renowned for its exceptional craftsmanship and the intricate decorative details found in both religious and public buildings. Builders utilized locally available stone to create beautiful structures adorned with delicate floral and geometric motifs, reflecting the high skill level of the artisans. This style is particularly famous for its unique blend of indigenous and imported features, visible in the design of massive gateways and elaborate water structures. These

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preached a message of social equality, often in the language of the common people. By challenging the dominance of the priestly class and the caste system, they made spirituality accessible to all segments of society. Their teachings and hymns laid the foundation for several major religious traditions and continue to inspire followers.

118. (C) Guru Arjan Dev
The fifth Guru played a crucial role in consolidating the teachings and hymns of his predecessors into an authoritative and standardized scripture. This compilation also included the works of various other mystics from different traditions, reflecting a universal vision of spiritual truth. By creating this sacred text, he provided the community with a clear and definitive source of guidance and a focus for their religious activities. This act was essential for establishing a distinct and unified identity for the followers.

119. (D) The mercantile and professional class (specifically moneylenders/bankers)
These individuals were essential members of the economic elite, specializing in financial services such as money-lending, currency exchange, and credit management. They played a vital role in facilitating domestic and long-distance trade by providing the necessary capital and financial instruments. Their expertise was crucial for the functioning of the state revenue system and the overall economic stability of the region. As influential bankers, they often possessed significant wealth and held an important position in the urban social structure.

120. (C) Small-scale intermediary zamindars
These local leaders held traditional authority over several villages and acted as intermediaries between the central state and the farming communities. They were responsible for collecting land revenue and maintaining order at the local level, often possessing their own small military forces. Their power was typically hereditary, rooted in long-standing social and economic influence within their territories. They formed a crucial layer of the rural elite, whose support was essential for the stability and functioning of the imperial administration.

121. (B) A practice of dedicating young girls to the service of a temple deity through a symbolic marriage.
This ancient practice involved young women committing their lives to the service of a temple, where they were responsible for performing sacred rituals and preserving classical arts. They were highly skilled in dance and music, which were essential components of the religious ceremonies. While originally held in high social and religious esteem, the institution underwent significant changes over time due to shifts in social and political conditions. It remains a notable aspect of the cultural and religious history.

122. (D) Basic literacy and religious instruction for children.
These primary educational centers were established to provide young students with fundamental skills such as reading, writing, and basic religious knowledge. They often served as the first stage of education, preparing children for daily life or for more advanced studies in higher institutions. The curriculum focused on the recitation of sacred texts and the principles of the faith, ensuring that the younger generation developed a strong moral and religious foundation. These schools were essential for promoting literacy within the community.

123. (A) Jahangir
During the early seventeenth century, the imperial school of painting reached its highest level of refinement, particularly in the detailed and realistic depiction of the natural world. The emperor was a passionate connoisseur who encouraged artists to produce accurate studies of exotic plants, birds, and animals. This period saw a move away from large-scale epic illustrations toward individual portraits and botanical works of extreme technical precision. The emphasis on naturalistic detail and observation made this era the most celebrated for artistic realism.

124. (C) Trabeate (pillar-beam) and Arcuate (arch-dome) systems
The primary structural difference between the two traditions lies in the methods used to support the weight of the buildings and create interior spaces. The older tradition relied on vertical columns and horizontal beams, which limited

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166. (B) Arch and dome
This monumental architectural tradition is defined by its use of specific structural elements that allowed for the creation of larger, more imposing interior spaces and grand exteriors. The introduction of the arch enabled builders to span wider distances with greater strength, while the dome provided a majestic crowning element for various buildings. These features transformed the architectural landscape of the subcontinent, producing a unique style that combined structural innovation with intricate decorative details. This approach reflected a sophisticated understanding of engineering and design.

167. (D) Shaivism
This magnificent eighth-century rock-cut temple is a grand example of a religious tradition that centers on the worship of the deity Shiva as the supreme source of creation and transformation. The temple's elaborate carvings and massive scale reflect the deep spiritual devotion and artistic skill of the period. It stands as a monumental representation of the mythological home of the deity, showcasing the importance of this specific devotional path in the cultural and religious life of the subcontinent during the era.

168. (A) Naqshbandi
This influential mystical order gained significant support from the state during the seventeenth century due to its emphasis on strict adherence to religious law and its more orthodox interpretation of the mystical path. Unlike some other orders that embraced more syncretic practices, its leaders focused on spiritual discipline within the framework of traditional teachings. This approach appealed to rulers who sought to maintain religious orthodoxy and social order. The order played a crucial role in the religious and political life of the empire.

169. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Spiritual leaders during this period consciously chose to express their teachings in the common dialects of the people rather than in classical, scholarly languages. This decision was driven by the desire to make their message of personal devotion and social equality accessible to the general population. By using the language of everyday life, they built a direct emotional connection with their followers and significantly contributed to the growth and richness of regional literature, making spirituality more popular and inclusive.

170. (D) Guru Nanak Dev
The core ethical teachings of the founder of the faith are summarized by these three principles, which advocate for honest living, constant meditation on the divine, and sharing one's resources with others. These values emphasize the importance of leading an active, socially responsible life combined with spiritual devotion. By promoting these practical guidelines, the teachings provided a clear path for followers to achieve both personal spiritual growth and the welfare of the broader community within the religious framework.

171. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1
The history of the region was shaped by the succession of various political and religious events over several centuries. Initial stability was established by the foundation of the northern sultanate, followed by the consolidation and expansion of a vast empire under a long-reigning monarch. Later, another ruler focused on cultural and architectural achievements that defined an entire era. Finally, the formalization of a distinct community into an organized socio-religious body represented a significant change in the political and religious landscape of the subcontinent.

172. (D) Islamic scripture and law
This intellectual elite was highly respected for their deep knowledge of religious texts and their expertise in interpreting divine law. They were responsible for providing guidance to the community and advising the state on judicial and moral matters. Their authority was rooted in their mastery of the sacred teachings and the legal framework that governed social life. As guardians of tradition, they occupied influential positions in the legal and educational systems, playing a vital role in maintaining the religious identity.

173. (B) The groups, like artisans and service providers, whose primary occupation was not farming.
Rural society was composed of various groups that performed essential roles beyond direct

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By using this poetic form, the teachings were made more accessible and emotional for the followers, providing a focal point for personal and communal worship. This spiritual poetry remains the core of the faith's religious practice.

203. (A) Tax-free land grants given to religious scholars and institutions.
This term refers to the system of providing financial support to respected intellectuals and religious centers through the assignment of revenue from specific plots of land. These grants were tax-free and intended to ensure that the recipients could focus on their scholarly and spiritual activities without being burdened by material concerns. This practice reflected the state's patronage of religion and education and played a vital role in maintaining a well-educated intellectual class and preserving traditional knowledge throughout the imperial period.

204. (B) Cultivated land on a temporary, contractual basis in a village where he did not reside.
Rural society included various categories of farmers based on their connection to the land they tilled. This specific group consisted of itinerant cultivators who traveled to neighboring areas to farm land under temporary agreements, rather than owning land in their own village. These farmers played a crucial role in maintaining agricultural production, especially in regions with a shortage of local labor. Their mobility was a key feature of the medieval agrarian economy, and they contributed significantly to the overall output.

205. (B) The upper classes and aristocracy.
The practice of secluding women from public view in dedicated quarters was most strictly observed among the elite and noble families during this era. This custom was considered a mark of high social status and was intended to ensure the privacy and protection of women from royal and noble backgrounds. It was less common among the laboring classes, where women often played a more active and visible role in the local economy. This system reflected the hierarchical and gender-segregated nature of society.

206. (A) Madarasas
These institutions of higher learning were established to provide an advanced education in religious sciences, law, theology, and philosophy. They were crucial for training the administrative and judicial officials required by the state, ensuring that the government had a steady supply of well-versed and competent scholars. The curriculum was designed to offer a comprehensive education that combined spiritual knowledge with practical administrative skills. These centers were vital for preserving traditional knowledge and maintaining the intellectual standards of the period.

207. (C) Pahari School (Kangra)
This artistic tradition is renowned for its lyrical and romantic themes, often depicting divine love and legendary stories in lush, mountainous landscapes. The paintings are characterized by delicate lines and refined colors, which were used to evoke a sense of poetic beauty and emotional depth. This style developed under the patronage of regional courts and reflects the sophisticated aesthetic and spiritual sensibilities of the time. It is a vital part of the broader artistic heritage, showcasing the technical excellence of the regional painters.

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208. (D) Arches and domes.
The primary distinction between the two traditions lies in the innovative structural techniques used to create monumental buildings and grand interior spaces. The newer tradition introduced the arch and the dome, which allowed for larger spans and more imposing exteriors compared to the older pillar-and-beam methods. This architectural transition revolutionized the landscape of the subcontinent, producing a unique synthesis of styles that combined structural strength with intricate decorative details. These features became a hallmark of the period's majestic and iconic structures.

209. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Imperial gardens were designed according to a formal layout that was intended to serve as a symbolic representation of paradise. The symmetrical design with its four quadrants and intersecting water channels reflected descriptions found in sacred texts, creating a serene and beautiful environment that combined architectural precision with the natural world. These gardens were not only places of pleasure

appearance that reflected the local climate and cultural identity. These structures showcase the creative synthesis of regional traditions and imperial architectural influences.

181. (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
The development of this spiritual movement was marked by several significant stages and institutions that defined its unique identity. It began with the teachings of a profound leader who preached monotheism and social equality, followed by the establishment of an initiated community dedicated to protecting these values. The concept of selfless service became a fundamental tenet, practically demonstrated through communal traditions. These elements together created a resilient and inclusive community that played a vital role in the social and religious history.

182. (C) Complicated ritualism and the dominance of the priestly class.
A primary focus of the spiritual leaders during this era was the critique of existing religious systems that they believed had become overly formal and exclusionary. They argued against the necessity of complex ceremonies and the mediation of a specialized class of intermediaries, which they felt distanced common people from the divine. By emphasizing personal devotion and moral integrity, they sought to make spiritual realization accessible to everyone, regardless of their social background or knowledge of formal religious procedures.

183. (B) Hierarchical, based on factors like caste, occupation, and religion.
The social structure during this period was characterized by a complex and rigid organization based on a variety of factors that determined an individual's status and role. These included their birth, their primary economic activities, and their religious identity, which together placed them within a specific group in the social pyramid. This hierarchy governed everything from social interactions and marriage practices to legal rights and access to resources. It was a defining feature of the society, shaping both urban and rural life.

184. (D) The royal and aristocratic families
The practice of secluding women in dedicated residential quarters was most strictly observed among the elite sections of society during this period. For royal and noble families, this arrangement was a mark of high social status and was intended to ensure the privacy and protection of women. Within these spaces, women from high-ranking families managed their own social lives and often exerted significant influence over domestic and political matters. This system reflected the hierarchical and gender-segregated nature of the aristocratic lifestyle.

185. (A) Indo-Islamic architecture
This architectural tradition is defined by the integration of specific structural and decorative elements that emerged from the fusion of indigenous and imported techniques. The use of arches and domes provided both strength and grandeur, while tall minarets and intricate geometric latticework served as focal points for religious and aesthetic expression. These features were often combined with traditional craftsmanship to produce a unique style that transformed the monumental landscape of the subcontinent. These structures reflect the cultural synthesis of the era.

186. (B) Akbar
The sixteenth-century imperial court was a vibrant center of cultural and artistic activity, attracting numerous talented individuals from across the region. One of the most famous musicians of the time was patronized by the emperor, becoming one of the most celebrated figures in the history of classical music. His innovations and technical skill were highly valued, and he played a crucial role in developing the performing arts during this peak period of imperial growth and cultural synthesis.

187. (B) Shah Nimatullah and Makhdum Muhammad Jilani
This influential mystical order was introduced to the subcontinent by two respected figures during the medieval period. It became known for its emphasis on spiritual discipline and its adherence to traditional teachings within the framework of mystical practice. The order attracted many followers and established numerous centers that provided spiritual guidance and social service. Its presence significantly enriched the religious and cultural landscape of the region, contributing to

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217. (A) Jahangir
The early seventeenth-century imperial school of art saw the popularization of a unique form of collection that combined paintings and calligraphy into stylized albums. These were carefully curated to showcase the refined aesthetic tastes of the elite and the technical skill of the artists. This period emphasized naturalistic detail and realistic portraiture, which were perfectly suited for these more intimate and portable art forms. The creation of such albums reflected the sophisticated cultural climate of the court and the patronage of the connoisseur ruler.

218. (C) Malwa
This monumental mosque in the central plateau region is a fine example of the regional architectural style characterized by its massive scale and austere grandeur. Its design features a grand central courtyard and several large domes, reflecting a fusion of central imperial influences and local building traditions. The use of specific materials and the simplified yet imposing exterior gave the structure a distinct appearance that symbolized the power and independence of the regional sultanate during that era in the medieval subcontinent.

219. (B) Sufism
This mystical tradition places a fundamental emphasis on the relationship between a highly respected guide and their follower. The guide is believed to possess the divine knowledge and wisdom necessary to lead the disciple toward spiritual realization and union with the divine creator. Through their teachings and personal example, they provide spiritual training and support, helping the disciple overcome worldly attachments and achieve a deeper connection with ultimate reality. This concept is central to the organization and practice of mystical orders.

220. (C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
The architectural landscape of the medieval period featured a variety of styles that developed across different regions and eras. Early monumental towers were built in the capital, while later peak imperial architecture focused on refined marble structures with intricate decorative techniques. Additionally, distinct regional traditions emerged in the south and east, characterized by enormous domes and curved roof designs adapted from local building forms. These various monuments showcase the diversity and richness of the cultural and architectural heritage throughout the subcontinent.

221. (B) Vishnu
This group of twelve singer-saints was instrumental in initiating the devotional movement in southern India by emphasizing personal devotion to the preserver deity as the supreme source of creation and righteousness. Their passionate poetry, composed in the local language, popularized the concept of direct spiritual connection among common people, often challenging social hierarchies. Their work laid the foundation for the later expansion of the movement and profoundly influenced regional languages, literature, and religious practices for centuries. They are revered pioneers.

222. (A) The Pure
This term literally means the unadulterated or the holy and refers to the organized body of initiated followers who have committed themselves to a disciplined life of spiritual devotion and social responsibility. Established by the tenth Guru, this community was designed to provide a strong and unified identity and to serve as a body of dedicated individuals prepared to protect their faith and resist oppression. Members are expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct and maintain specific external symbols.

223. (C) Facilitating trade, commerce, and credit.
This segment of society consisted of individuals who provided essential financial and commercial services required for the functioning of the economy. It included those engaged in domestic and long-distance trade, money-lending, and the management of credit and capital. These groups were vital for the administrative and economic stability of the state, often possessing significant wealth and social influence. Their expertise ensured the smooth flow of goods and capital across the vast territories of the medieval empires.

224. (D) The Delhi Sultans and the Mughals
The architectural landscape of northern India was transformed by the building activities of two successive imperial dynasties. They introduced innovative structural techniques

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This late seventeenth-century monument in the southern region was built as a tribute but is often cited as an example of the waning architectural vigor of the empire. While it attempted to replicate the grandeur and design of more famous earlier structures, it lacked the technical precision and high-quality materials of its predecessors. This reflected the changing political and economic conditions of the time, where the central state faced increasing challenges and the resources for massive construction projects were more limited.

196. (C) Maharashtra
This specific form of devotional poetry is associated with the spiritual tradition in the central western region, where saints used it to express their intense personal devotion to a local deity. The verses are characterized by their rhythmic structure and their focus on moral integrity, social equality, and the importance of a direct connection with the divine. This tradition played a vital role in shaping the regional identity and culture, making spirituality accessible to people from all backgrounds for many centuries.

197. (B) Sufi orders (silsilas).
These various groups were major mystical orders that emerged during the medieval period, each with its own spiritual lineage and specific practices. They were led by respected masters and played a crucial role in spreading mystical ideals and fostering social harmony across the subcontinent. Each order maintained its own centers for spiritual training and communal living, providing guidance and support to followers from diverse backgrounds. They are essential components of the religious and cultural history of the period's spiritual movements.

198. (D) While practices like Sati and Purdah were prevalent, figures like Razia Sultan wielded power.
The status of women during this era was complex and marked by significant contradictions. While restrictive social customs were common and many women faced significant limitations, there were also notable instances of women attaining significant spiritual, cultural, and political authority. Some women rose to become influential mystics or even rulers who managed the affairs of the state. These diverse experiences demonstrate that gender roles were not uniform and that individuals could sometimes transcend the social and political constraints of their time.

199. (C) 1, 2 and 3
This monumental architectural tradition is characterized by the synthesis of various structural and decorative techniques from different origins. The use of arches and domes allowed for larger interior spaces, while traditional pillar-and-beam methods continued to be used for certain structural and aesthetic purposes. Intricate latticed screens were also a common feature, providing ventilation and privacy while adding a refined decorative quality to the buildings. These combined features created a unique and majestic style that defined the urban and religious landscape.

200. (B) The master and the disciple.
This core relationship in the mystical path is based on the spiritual bond between a highly respected guide and their follower. The guide is believed to possess the divine knowledge and wisdom necessary to lead the disciple toward spiritual realization and union with the divine. Through their teachings and personal example, the master provides training and support, helping the disciple overcome worldly attachments and achieve a deeper connection with the divine creator within the organized mystical traditions.

201. (C) Kabir
This influential fifteenth-century saint and poet composed verses that emphasized spiritual equality and the importance of personal devotion over rigid religious identities. His work challenged both orthodox Hindu and Islamic practices, making it highly relevant in a syncretic spiritual environment. His hymns were even included in the sacred scripture of another faith, reflecting his widespread appeal and the universal nature of his message. His poetry continues to be a major influence on the spiritual and cultural landscape of the subcontinent.

202. (D) Poetic hymns called Gurbani or Shabad.
The teachings of the founder of the faith are preserved in the sacred scripture in the form of rhythmic and melodic recitations. These hymns emphasize monotheism, social equality, and the importance of leading an ethical life focused on spiritual devotion and selfless service.

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the diverse array of spiritual paths that flourished during that era.

188. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The devotional movement featured several prominent women saints who were dedicated to different deities across various regions. Some expressed their devotion to the divine incarnation as a child or a lover, while others focused on the supreme source of transformation or the preserver god. Their poetry, composed in regional languages, reflected their personal spiritual journeys and their commitment to a life of faith. These diverse paths of devotion showcase the richness and inclusivity of the movement during the medieval period.

189. (A) Wool
The term used to describe these practitioners of the mystical path is believed to be derived from a simple material used for their clothing. By adopting modest and coarse garments, these early seekers symbolized their renunciation of worldly luxuries and their commitment to a life of humility and spiritual devotion. This choice reflected their focus on inner purity and a direct emotional connection with the divine, marking a distinct departure from the elaborate lifestyle of the social and religious elite.

190. (C) The community of initiated 'pure' Sikhs created by Guru Gobind Singh.
This term refers to the organized body of believers who have undergone a formal initiation ceremony, committing themselves to a life of spiritual discipline and social responsibility. Established by the tenth Guru, this community was designed to provide a strong and unified identity and to serve as a body of dedicated individuals prepared to protect their faith and resist oppression. Members are expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct and maintain specific external symbols that reflect their commitment.

191. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Medieval society was characterized by a complex and multifaceted organization that included several distinct groups, each with its own role and status. This hierarchy encompassed the elite ruling class, religious and intellectual scholars, a diverse mercantile and professional class, and a large rural population of farmers and specialists. This structured arrangement ensured the functioning and stability of the empire by defining the rights and responsibilities of each segment of the population. It was a defining feature of the period's social fabric.

192. (B) Cultivation (agriculture)
The vast majority of the population during this period was engaged in tilling the land and producing the food crops that formed the basis of the entire economy. This primary activity sustained both urban and rural communities and provided the main source of revenue for the state. Rural life was centered on the cycles of agricultural production, which governed the social and economic interactions of the countryside. This labor was essential for the functioning and stability of the complex imperial social systems.

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193. (A) Jahangir
The early seventeenth-century emperor was a passionate connoisseur of art who took a personal interest in the development of individual artists and their unique styles. He claimed to have such a refined eye that he could identify the work of different painters in a single composite image. This period saw a significant emphasis on technical precision and realistic detail in portraits and depictions of the natural world. The imperial school of art reached its peak of refinement under his patronage.

194. (C) Mughal painting was aristocratic and documentary, while Rajasthani painting was popular and emotional.
The two major schools of painting during this period differed significantly in their themes and aesthetic goals. The imperial school focused on realistic portraiture and the detailed documentation of courtly life and historical events, reflecting the tastes of the elite. In contrast, the regional styles in the plains drew from local folklore and mythology, emphasizing emotional depth and romantic narratives. While both traditions were highly developed, they appealed to different sensibilities and served different cultural and religious purposes.

195. (D) The decline of Mughal architectural standards in the later period.

but also served as powerful symbols of the immense wealth and religious devotion of the ruling elite, providing a lasting cultural legacy.

210. (B) Their strategic use of difficult hill terrain.
These hilltop fortifications were masterfully engineered to take advantage of the rugged and mountainous landscape, providing exceptional defense against invaders. Their strategic location on high ridges allowed for clear views of the surrounding area and made it difficult for attacking forces to gain access. Multiple layers of thick walls and massive gates further enhanced their resilience during prolonged sieges. These strongholds were central to the military strategy of the region, symbolizing the power and resourcefulness of the local leadership against external threats.

211. (A) Intense personal love and devotion.
The mystical path focuses on the realization of the divine through the cultivation of an intense, emotional bond with the creator. Practitioners believe that worldly attachments must be discarded in favor of overwhelming longing and spiritual intimacy, which are seen as the primary means of reaching ultimate truth. This approach emphasizes the transformation of the heart over outward rituals or intellectual exercises. By pursuing a state of spiritual selflessness, the seeker aims to bridge the gap between the soul and the divine.

212. (C) Lord Shiva
This group of sixty-three singer-saints was instrumental in initiating the devotional movement in southern India by emphasizing personal devotion to the deity Shiva as the supreme reality. Their passionate poetry, composed in the local language, popularized the concept of direct spiritual connection among common people, often challenging existing social hierarchies. Their work laid the foundation for the later expansion of the movement and profoundly influenced the regional languages, literature, and religious practices for centuries. They are revered as pioneers of devotion.

213. (D) The collective self-immolation of women to avoid dishonor by an enemy.
This practice was deeply rooted in the martial code and sense of honor of the warrior clans during the medieval period. When faced with an unavoidable defeat at the hands of an invading force, women from the community chose to perform a ritual of self-immolation to protect their dignity and avoid capture. This extreme act reflected the high value placed on personal integrity and clan loyalty, becoming a legendary symbol of resistance and courage in the regional historical narratives of that time.

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214. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Medieval society was organized into several distinct groups, each defined by its specific role in the political, religious, and economic life of the state. The elite group held high administrative and military positions, while the intellectual group specialized in religious law and guidance. Commercial activities were managed by a class of bankers and traders, and the rural landscape was governed by village headmen who acted as intermediaries. This structured hierarchy ensured the functioning and stability of the complex imperial system.

215. (D) Buddhist Viharas (monasteries).
This unique tiered structure in the ceremonial imperial city is characterized by its open, multi-storied design supported by numerous pillars. Its architectural form shows a significant influence from earlier indigenous building traditions that utilized similar layouts for communal and spiritual purposes. This design reflects the inclusive aesthetic of the period, where builders creatively integrated various regional styles to create monumental structures that displayed both grandeur and cultural synthesis. It remains a notable example of the diverse architectural influences of that era.

216. (B) Sufi shrines
This genre of devotional music emerged from the creative synthesis of indigenous melodic structures with influences from other traditions. It was primarily performed at the final resting places of revered mystics to induce spiritual ecstasy among listeners and express deep religious longing. The use of powerful vocal delivery and repetitive rhythms helped convey the messages of the saints to the general population. This musical tradition became an essential part of cultural life, symbolizing the inclusive spirit of the mystical movement.

agricultural production. These individuals provided specialized goods and services, such as crafting tools, manufacturing household items, and providing professional skills, which were necessary for the functioning of the village community. While they were integrated into the rural economy, their primary activities were not related to tilling the land. Their presence ensured the self-sufficiency of the village and contributed to the overall social and economic stability of the region.

174. (C) Shah Jahan
This massive and magnificent mosque was commissioned by the fifth emperor of the dynasty as part of his efforts to enhance the grandeur of his new capital. It stands as one of the largest and most impressive examples of imperial architecture, featuring a grand courtyard, soaring minarets, and three large domes. Its construction utilized red sandstone and white marble, reflecting the refined aesthetic tastes and immense wealth of the era. The mosque remains a central landmark and a symbol of spiritual and political power.

175. (D) Jayadeva
This celebrated twelfth-century poet is the author of a seminal text that explores the profound spiritual connection between the individual soul and the divine through lyrical poetry. The work focuses on the legendary romance between two central figures and became a cornerstone of the devotional movement in eastern India. Its emphasis on emotional intensity and divine love inspired countless artistic, musical, and dramatic representations. The text played a vital role in shaping the spiritual and cultural landscape of the entire subcontinent.

176. (A) Sama (audition or listening)
This spiritual practice involved the use of melodic recitations and rhythmic music to help the devotee achieve a heightened state of awareness and emotional connection with the divine. These assemblies were often held at the centers of mystical orders, attracting seekers who believed that music could directly touch the soul and induce spiritual ecstasy. The experience was intended to foster a sense of unity with ultimate reality and was a defining feature of the mystical heritage during the medieval period.

177. (B) A member of the Khalsa
These five specific articles of faith are mandatory for all individuals who have undergone the formal initiation ceremony into the disciplined community. They serve as external symbols of the member's commitment to the faith's principles, including spiritual devotion, cleanliness, and readiness to protect the oppressed. These symbols were intended to create a uniform and recognizable identity, fostering a sense of unity and discipline among the followers. They reflect the core values and distinct identity of this organized socio-religious body.

178. (B) Land revenue grants/rank and commercial profit.
The status and power of individuals during this period were determined by their primary source of wealth and their role in the social hierarchy. The elite group derived their prestige and authority from high-ranking administrative and military positions and the land grants assigned to them by the state. In contrast, the commercial group based their wealth and social position on their success in trade, banking, and financial management. This distinction between political rank and economic profit defined the social landscape.

179. (A) Shah Jahan
This monumental fortification in the imperial capital was built by the mid-seventeenth century ruler to serve as the seat of his power and his primary residence. It is a masterpiece of design, featuring massive red sandstone walls, grand gateways, and elegant palaces adorned with intricate carvings and stone inlay work. The fort's layout and its various structures reflect the peak of architectural achievement and the refined aesthetic tastes of the era. It remains one of the most iconic symbols of imperial history.

180. (C) Characteristic curved 'Bangla' roof, adapted from local bamboo huts, and use of brick.
The regional architecture of this eastern province is distinguished by its innovative use of local materials and traditional building forms. Builders adapted the curved shape of indigenous bamboo hut roofs for use in more permanent structures made of brick and stone. This unique feature, along with the extensive use of terracotta ornamentation, gave the buildings a distinct

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such as the arch and the dome and developed a unique aesthetic that combined indigenous and imported features. Their patronage resulted in numerous monumental structures, including mosques, tombs, and palaces, which served as lasting symbols of their political power and religious devotion. These monuments reflect the sophisticated cultural synthesis and the immense resources of the medieval period.

225. (C) The use of music (Sama) in religious gatherings.
A significant point of tension between mystical practitioners and the orthodox religious elite centered on the role of creative arts in spiritual life. While mystics believed that melodic recitations and rhythmic music could help the devotee achieve a heightened state of spiritual awareness, some traditional scholars viewed these practices as deviations from religious law. This disagreement over the legitimacy of such assemblies was a defining feature of the intellectual and religious climate of the period across various spiritual orders.

226. (B) Tulsidas
This sixteenth-century poet and saint is highly revered for his monumental contribution to devotional literature in a regional dialect. His most famous work narrates the life and deeds of a divine incarnation, making the spiritual epic accessible to the common population who did not speak classical languages. By emphasizing intense devotion and the moral virtues of the deity, he played a crucial role in popularizing the worship of this personal god throughout the northern parts of India.

227. (D) Elaborate use of white marble and pietra dura
These hilltop fortifications were primarily designed for strategic defense and military functionality in a rugged terrain. Their construction utilized locally available durable stone to create thick walls and massive bastions, focusing on strength and resilience against invaders. Unlike the more ornate courtly architecture of the imperial capitals, these structures lacked expensive decorative techniques such as stone inlay and extensive marble use. Their design prioritized tactical advantage, control over access, and the protection of the regional territory during times of conflict.

228. (B) 1 and 2 only
The imperial school of painting reached its highest level of refinement during the early seventeenth century, particularly in the detailed and realistic portrayal of individual figures and the natural world. This period saw a significant emphasis on technical precision and observation, with artists producing accurate studies of exotic plants and animals. Themes were diverse, including courtly life, historical events, and individual portraits, reflecting the documentary interests and sophisticated tastes of the court. This style represents a peak in artistic development.

229. (C) Promotion of social equality and critique of caste-based discrimination.
The devotional movement had a profound social impact by emphasizing spiritual equality and challenging the rigid hierarchies based on birth. Spiritual leaders from various backgrounds preached a message of universal love and direct access to the divine, which resonated with those traditionally excluded from formal religious systems. By advocating for social justice and moral integrity, the movement helped to create a more inclusive and compassionate society. These ideas significantly influenced regional identities and promoted a sense of spiritual unity.

230. (A) The Muslim community
These educational institutions were established to provide instruction in religious sciences, law, and theology, primarily for students from the local and urban populations of a specific faith. Primary centers focused on fundamental skills and basic religious knowledge, while higher institutions offered advanced training to prepare individuals for careers in the administration and the judiciary. These schools were essential for maintaining a literate and well-versed intellectual class and preserving the religious and cultural traditions of this community during the period.

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231. (D) Hyderabad
This iconic monument and mosque in the southern central region is a celebrated example of a regional architectural style that emerged after the establishment of a local sultanate. Its design features four massive arches and four distinctive, soaring minarets, which serve as a landmark in the city. The structure showcases the sophisticated aesthetic and structural innovations

developed by regional builders, combining central imperial influences with unique local traditions. It remains a powerful symbol of the cultural identity and historical significance of the area.

232. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The emergence of influential woman mystics during this period provided a unique perspective within the devotional movement and offered new opportunities for spiritual expression. By dedicating their lives to the divine, these women often transcended traditional gender roles and challenged the patriarchal constraints of their time. Their poetry and teachings reflected their personal spiritual journeys and their commitment to a life of faith and independence. Their legacy continues to inspire many by demonstrating the possibility of spiritual realization.

233. (C) A spiritual life eternal in and with God.
This core concept in the mystical path refers to the state of spiritual realization that follows the annihilation of the self and worldly attachments. In this state, the seeker achieved a permanent and harmonious existence in the presence of the divine creator, leading a life that is spiritually fulfilled and eternal. This stage represents the ultimate goal of the mystical journey, where the devotee's soul is completely unified with the ultimate reality. It is a defining feature of higher spiritual development.

234. (D) Guru Gobind Singh
This collection of hymns and teachings is traditionally associated with the tenth Guru, who played a crucial role in defining the distinct identity and code of conduct for the community. The work reflects his focus on spiritual devotion, martial courage, and moral integrity, which were essential for the followers during a period of intense persecution. While distinct from the primary sacred scripture, it remains an important part of the religious literature and continues to inspire followers with its message.

235. (A) Produced and maintained the tools necessary for agriculture.
Rural specialists who provided essential goods and services were fundamental to the functioning of the village economy. Blacksmiths and carpenters, in particular, were responsible for manufacturing and repairing the agricultural tools that cultivators needed to till the land. Without their specialized skills, agricultural production would have been significantly hindered. Their integration into the village community through traditional systems of exchange ensured the self-sufficiency of the rural society and maintained the stability of the complex agrarian systems during the medieval period.

236. (B) A grand, high ceiling on the exterior while maintaining a comfortable, proportionate ceiling height inside.
This innovative structural feature in monumental architecture allowed builders to create a grand and imposing exterior while ensuring that the interior spaces remained comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. By constructing two layers of domes, the outer one provided height and presence, while the inner one maintained a proportionate ceiling height for the rooms below. This technique solved the problem of maintaining architectural balance and was used in several iconic buildings to enhance their majestic appearance and structural stability across various empires.

237. (B) Rajasthani painting
These two distinctive sub-schools are part of a broader artistic tradition that flourished in the regional courts of the western plains. The styles are known for their vibrant colors and their focus on emotional narratives from local folklore, religious epics, and depictions of courtly life. These paintings reflect the unique aesthetic sensibilities and cultural aspirations of the regional rulers and their patrons. Both schools significantly enriched the artistic heritage of the subcontinent, showcasing the creativity and technical excellence of the regional painters of the era.

238. (A) It was often marked by tension and disagreement over issues like music (Sama) and mystical interpretations.
The relationship between mystical practitioners and traditional religious scholars was often complex and marked by significant differences in their approach to spirituality. While mystics emphasized internal devotion and personal experience, scholars focused on the strict

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adherence to formal religious laws and rituals. These differing perspectives led to debates over the legitimacy of certain mystical practices, such as congregational singing and rhythmic music. This intellectual and religious tension was a defining feature of the cultural and spiritual landscape throughout the entire medieval period.

239. (C) The Virashaiva/Lingayat movement of Karnataka
This significant social and religious movement emerged in the southern central region, advocating for spiritual equality and the rejection of caste-based discrimination. The followers produced a rich body of rhythmic literature in the local language, which was used to spread their message of ethical conduct and devotion to a single deity. These teachings challenged existing social and religious orthodoxies and were accessible to people from all backgrounds. This tradition continues to be a central part of the regional cultural identity and spiritual history.

240. (D) An active, householder's life combined with spiritual devotion and ethical conduct.
The founder of the faith preached a message that emphasized the importance of leading a moral and socially responsible life within the family and community. He taught that spiritual liberation could be achieved through honest labor, selfless service, and constant meditation on the divine presence, rather than through withdrawal from the world. This approach promoted the idea of spiritual equality and social justice, providing a practical model for building a harmonious society. His teachings continue to guide followers toward a life of purpose.

241. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
The status of women during this era was multifaceted, encompassing both restrictive social customs and notable instances of significant spiritual and political authority. While practices like seclusion and certain traditional rituals were common among the elite, influential woman mystics rose to prominence by challenging social norms through their devotion. Additionally, some women held the highest political power, managing the affairs of the state. These diverse roles demonstrate that gender experiences were not uniform and that individuals could sometimes exert significant influence on their society.

242. (B) The Quran, Hadith, Fiqh (jurisprudence), logic, and philosophy.
The curriculum in these advanced institutions of higher learning was designed to provide a comprehensive education in religious sciences, law, and rational disciplines. Students received training in interpreting sacred texts, the study of traditional teachings, and the principles of jurisprudence to prepare them for professional careers in the administration and the judiciary. The inclusion of subjects like logic and philosophy ensured that graduates possessed a well-rounded intellectual foundation. These centers were vital for maintaining the high standards of education and leadership during that time.

243. (C) Mughal gardens
These imperial gardens are classic examples of the formal layout that uses symmetrical quadrants and intersecting water channels to create a serene and beautiful environment. Set in the scenic mountainous region, they combine architectural precision with the natural beauty of trees and flowers, reflecting the refined aesthetic tastes of the ruling dynasty. The presence of flowing water and stone pavilions was intended to symbolize an earthly representation of paradise. These gardens remain celebrated symbols of the cultural and artistic achievements of the medieval period.

244. (D) A regional Hindu architectural style of the South
This magnificent architectural tradition developed in the southern part of the subcontinent and is characterized by its ornate gateways and elaborate pillared halls. The buildings feature intricate stone carvings and massive structures that reflect the power and religious devotion of the regional empire. This style represents a continuation and refinement of earlier indigenous building traditions, showcasing the technical skill and aesthetic sensibilities of the local artisans. These monuments remain some of the most impressive examples of regional religious and palace architecture.

245. (A) Yogis who stressed meditation and asceticism
This group of spiritual practitioners was known for their focus on physical disciplines and

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(B) Religious differences between powers
(C) Orders to conquer the entire region
(D) Succession disputes among local rulers

8. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the expansion of British dominion in India.
(A) The British consistently respected all treaties signed with Indian princely states.
(B) The British used the system of Subsidiary Alliances to bring Indian states under their control.
(C) The Doctrine of Lapse was an annexation policy applied by the British.
(D) The expansion involved a series of major wars, such as the Anglo-Mysore and Anglo-Maratha wars.

9. Consider the following statements about sources of Modern Indian History:
1. Biographies are always more reliable than government archival records.
2. Paintings from the period can provide insights into the social life and customs.
3. Oral evidence is not considered a valid historical source due to its subjective natur(E)
4. Coins can help in determining the economic conditions and the extent of a ruler's territory.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

10. Which European power's influence in India was largely confined to a few coastal settlements like Goa, Daman, and Diu by the end of the 18th century?
(A) The Portuguese
(B) The French
(C) The Dutch
(D) The British

11. The conflict between the British and Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal, directly led to which pivotal event?
(A) The Battle of Buxar
(B) The First Anglo-Mysore War
(C) The Treaty of Salbai
(D) The Battle of Plassey

12. Consider the following statements regarding European traders in India:
1. The Portuguese were the first to arrive and the last to leave Indi(A)
2. The Dutch primarily focused on the spice trade in the East Indies, with India being of secondary importanc(E)
3. The French East India Company was largely a department of the state and dependent on the government.
4. The British East India Company was initially a private enterprise with more autonomy.
5. All European companies were established in India with the primary goal of political conquest.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) 1, 3, and 5 only

13. The "Dual System" of administration in Bengal, introduced after the Battle of Buxar, meant that:
(A) British army control and Nawab revenue management
(B) Division of Bengal into two distinct administrative zones
(C) Company revenue rights and Nawab administrative rights
(D) Equal administrative sharing between British and French

14. What was the primary objective of the Portuguese in India during the 16th century?
(A) To establish a land-based empire across the subcontinent
(B) To form an alliance with the Mughals against the Marathas
(C) To promote free trade for all European nations
(D) To control the lucrative spice trade and spread Christianity

15. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Indian State)
P. Bengal
Q. Mysore
R. Punjab
S. Oudh
List II: (Key Event/Policy related to British

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every social class and religious background. Led by prominent saints, these centers promoted inclusivity and acted as vibrant locations where mystical traditions intersected, significantly influencing the local socio-religious fabric of medieval Indian society.

253. (C) It fostered social synchronization and cultural syncretism.
The inclusive philosophy adopted by various mystical orders encouraged significant social synchronization throughout the subcontinent. By welcoming people regardless of their religious affiliations, these spiritual centers created a syncretic culture. In this environment, Hindu and Muslim traditions found common ground, fostering harmony. This approach provided a powerful alternative to rigid orthodoxy, promoting humanitarian values and lasting social integration.

254. (D) The use of music and dance, known as 'sama'.
Devotional practices were essential for those seeking a direct mystical connection with the divine. Among these methods, the performance of music and dance, specifically referred to as sama, held a place of great prominence. These expressive rituals were designed to induce spiritual ecstasy and facilitate meditation, reflecting the unique cultural and religious synthesis that characterized diverse medieval mystical traditions.

255. (C) They provided a spiritual and social space inclusive of different social strata and religions.
Prominent spiritual leaders exerted a profound influence on medieval society by offering inclusive spaces for guidance and service. Their hospices remained open to everyone, disregarding social status or religious identity. By emphasizing love and humanity, they successfully countered rigid orthodox views. This inclusive nature helped shape a more integrated social structure, leaving a lasting impact on local literature and customs.

256. (B) Its emphasis on intense personal devotion to a chosen deity.
This transformative socio-religious movement was primarily defined by its focus on intense personal devotion toward a specific deity. By prioritizing an emotional and direct connection with the divine, it actively challenged the complex rituals and rigid caste-based hierarchies prevalent in orthodox traditions. This shift allowed individuals to seek salvation through pure love and total surrender, bypassing traditional priestly intermediaries.

257. (D) The Bhakti Movement.
Various devotional streams emerged as part of a larger spiritual resurgence across the subcontinent. These included traditions dedicated to the worship of Shiva, Vishnu and his many incarnations, and the divine feminine power known as Shakti. Each path emphasized a personal bond with the deity, contributing to a diverse yet unified movement that reshaped the religious and cultural landscape significantly.

258. (A) By using vernacular languages in their teachings and compositions.
Spiritual leaders revolutionized religious discourse by propagating their messages using regional vernacular languages. This linguistic shift made sacred knowledge accessible to the common population, including groups traditionally excluded from such studies. By moving away from elite languages, they democratized religion and sparked a rich tradition of regional devotional literature, ensuring that spiritual teachings resonated deeply with the everyday people.

259. (C) It questioned caste hierarchies and the necessity of priestly intermediaries.
The movement posed a significant challenge to established traditions by questioning the necessity of elaborate sacrifices and the role of priestly intermediaries. It advocated for a path where salvation was attainable through direct emotional surrender and love for the divine. By rejecting caste-based hierarchies and ritualistic complexities, it promoted an egalitarian spiritual framework that welcomed practitioners from all levels of society.

260. (A) It contributed to the democratisation of religion and social integration.
The spread of devotional teachings led to the significant democratization of religious practices, allowing diverse communities to participate in spiritual life. By removing barriers based on language and social status, the movement fostered cultural integration across the subcontinent. This

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meditation to achieve spiritual realization and mental clarity. Their teachings emphasized the importance of inner transformation and the renunciation of worldly attachments, which had a significant influence on later devotional saints. By practicing specific techniques to control the body and mind, they sought a deeper connection with the divine creator. Their influence demonstrates the syncretic nature of the spiritual movements that flourished across various regions during the medieval period.

246. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The spiritual and social landscape of the period was defined by several unique traditions and institutions, each with its own role and status. These included mystical orders with established spiritual lineages, the focus on intense personal devotion to a deity, and the formalization of a disciplined socio-religious community. Additionally, the intellectual elite specialized in religious law and guidance, playing a crucial role in maintaining tradition. These various elements together shaped the complex cultural and religious fabric of the subcontinent across many centuries.

247. (B) Amir Khusrau
This versatile thirteenth-century scholar and poet is credited with significant innovations in the musical and literary traditions of the subcontinent, including the development of new genres. He pioneered the fusion of indigenous melodic structures with influences from other traditions, creating a unique aesthetic that reflected the syncretic spirit of the era. His work facilitated a cultural dialogue that enriched the performing arts and laid the foundation for future developments in classical music. His contributions remain foundational to the cultural identity and heritage.

248. (A) Indo-Islamic architecture
This architectural tradition is defined by specific features such as the use of arches and domes and the layout of religious buildings with large courtyards. These elements were designed to accommodate congregational activities and provide a focal point for spiritual devotion in accordance with the needs of the community. The craftsmanship involved in creating these monumental structures displayed a sophisticated understanding of engineering and design, reflecting the cultural synthesis of the era. These buildings transformed the landscape and became iconic symbols.

249. (C) Sikhism
This core concept in the faith emphasizes the fundamental belief in the oneness of a single, omnipresent creator of all existence. It serves as a central tenet that guides the spiritual and moral lives of the followers, promoting a message of universal love, social equality, and moral integrity. This belief in monotheism is the foundation of all the faith's teachings and institutions, which aim to foster a harmonious and inclusive society. It continues to be the primary focus of personal and communal worship.

250. (B) A complex mosaic of groups defined by status and religion.
The social structure during this period was characterized by a multifaceted and hierarchical organization based on a variety of factors such as birth, economic activity, and religious identity. These elements together determined an individual's role and status in society, creating a complex social fabric across both urban and rural settings. This mosaic of different groups interacted within a structured system that governed their rights and responsibilities. It was a defining feature of the medieval society, shaping the political and cultural life.

251. (B) To achieve direct spiritual communion with God.
Sufism represents the mystical dimension within Islamic tradition, emphasizing an internal path toward the divine. The central pursuit of practitioners involved attaining direct spiritual communion with the Almighty. This spiritual goal was sought through rigorous asceticism, deep meditation, and vibrant devotional practices like music and dance, collectively known as sama, fostering a personal connection with the divine presence.

252. (A) A hospice serving as a centre for spiritual and social activities.
These specific establishments served as vital hubs for spiritual guidance and comprehensive social service during the medieval period. Operating as hospices, they welcomed individuals from

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269. (C) A just and egalitarian society.
The principles introduced by the first spiritual leader were specifically designed to establish a society characterized by justice and equality. By advocating for honest living and selfless service, the teachings aimed to eliminate social barriers and promote the welfare of all individuals. This vision for a just and egalitarian community provided a strong foundation for the subsequent development of society.

270. (D) It reflects a syncretic approach by including works of non-Sikh saints.
The inclusion of devotional works from various Hindu and Muslim saints within the primary scripture highlights a remarkably syncretic and inclusive philosophy. This approach demonstrates that the movement's founders valued spiritual truth regardless of its source. By integrating diverse perspectives, the text reflects a broad intellectual and religious outlook that sought commonality among different traditions while maintaining its core principles.

271. (C) The monarch, nobility, and high-ranking military commanders.
At the highest level of the social hierarchy sat the individuals who possessed significant political authority and controlled the state's wealth. This group consisted of the sovereign ruler, the influential nobility, and the commanders holding senior military positions. Their status allowed them to manage resources and shape the primary political landscape of the era, defining the obligations and privileges of other strata.

272. (B) Islamic scholars and theologians.
These individuals were highly respected scholars and theologians who specialized in religious knowledge and law. Within major states, they wielded considerable authority as interpreters of sacred legal codes and served as essential advisors to the ruling court. Their expertise influenced various aspects of life, including the judiciary and the educational systems, making them a vital part of the medieval social hierarchy.

273. (D) Rajput society.
This specific social group followed a unique organizational model centered on ancestral lineage and close-knit clans. A powerful martial ethos governed their way of life, emphasizing physical bravery and military service. Bound by a strict code of chivalry and honor, the status and duties of individuals within this society were primarily defined by land ownership and their commitment to warrior traditions.

274. (A) To facilitate commerce, finance, and provide skilled services.
This diverse social segment played a critical role in the economy and administration by managing commercial activities and financial transactions. It included wealthy traders and bankers who enabled trade, alongside highly skilled professionals like doctors, artists, and scribes. These individuals provided essential services to both the state and the ruling elite, contributing significantly to urban development and cultural life.

275. (C) They held significant authority in legal and educational matters.
In large imperial states, religious scholars held significant power over the legal and educational frameworks. They acted as the primary interpreters of religious law, which was fundamental to the judiciary. Furthermore, they managed institutions of learning, ensuring the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge. Their advisory role at court further cemented their influence over the administrative and intellectual life.

276. (A) The village officials, like the headman and accountant.
Administration in the countryside relied heavily on specific local figures who served as vital links between the central government and the rural population. These individuals, typically including the village headman and the accountant, managed local affairs and ensured communication with state authorities. Their presence was essential for the smooth functioning of rural governance and the collection of taxes from cultivators.

277. (D) To maintain local law and order and collect revenue.
Hereditary local leaders often enjoyed a degree of autonomy within their specific territories. Their primary responsibilities included the maintenance of law and order and the systematic collection of revenue. A portion of these collected funds was subsequently sent to the central

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government. These figures played a crucial role in stabilizing the rural landscape and ensuring the steady flow of resources to state.

278. (B) Providers of specialized goods and services, often paid with a share of the harvest.
Specialized workers such as weavers, potters, and blacksmiths were integral to the village economy, providing essential goods and services. They typically operated within a framework of hereditary obligations to the community. In exchange for their labor and products, they were often compensated with a fixed share of the agricultural harvest. This arrangement supported the relative self-sufficiency of rural settlements during the period.

279. (C) They were a differentiated group with varying rights to the land.
The individuals responsible for farming the land were not a uniform group but rather a stratified class with diverse levels of status. Some held clear proprietary rights over the fields they worked, while others operated as tenant farmers with varying degrees of security. This differentiation within the cultivating class reflected the complex nature of land ownership and agricultural labor in society.

280. (D) It was structured to be largely self-sufficient.
The organizational structure of rural settlements was designed to promote a high degree of self-sufficiency. By integrating agricultural production with the services of various local artisans, the community could meet its basic needs internally. This system of mutual obligations and shared resources ensured that the village functioned as a stable economic unit, capable of sustaining itself while also contributing.

281. (A) Secluded domestic quarters for women in a household.
Within the households of the elite and nobility, specific areas were designated as private domestic quarters for women. This arrangement was intended to ensure privacy and uphold the family's honor through the practice of seclusion. While it limited physical mobility and public visibility, it created a unique social space where women could still exercise significant influence and manage various aspects of life.

282. (B) Women dedicated to the service of a temple deity, often as accomplished artists.
Historically, this institution involved women who were dedicated to serving a specific deity within a temple. Initially regarded as a position of high honor, these individuals were often accomplished artists proficient in dance and music. They performed essential roles in sacred rituals and ceremonies. Although the system changed significantly over time, its origins were rooted in religious and artistic service.

283. (B) Zanana involved seclusion, while the Devadasi role was public and ritual-based.
A fundamental difference existed between these two social institutions regarding the public visibility and roles of women. One system emphasized strict seclusion within the domestic sphere, focusing on privacy and family honor. In contrast, the other involved a more public-facing role where women participated actively in temple rituals and cultural performances, highlighting a different relationship between gender and religion.

284. (A) It limited their mobility and public visibility through seclusion.
The implementation of this domestic arrangement led to significant restrictions on the mobility and public presence of elite women. By enforcing seclusion, the system limited their direct involvement in public affairs and visibility outside the household. However, this did not eliminate their agency, as they often managed substantial estates and acted as patrons of the arts from within private quarters.

285. (C) It was diverse and shaped by factors like social status and regional customs.
The status of women during this era was multifaceted and varied considerably based on their social standing and the specific customs of their region. While some experienced seclusion within noble households, others held public roles in religious settings. These diverse experiences demonstrate that the social reality for women was not uniform but was instead shaped by cultural, religious, and economic factors.

286. (D) The study of Islamic theology and jurisprudence.

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These institutions of higher learning were primarily established to provide advanced education in specific religious fields. The core curriculum focused heavily on the study of Islamic theology and the complexities of jurisprudence. By providing deep knowledge of sacred texts and legal principles, these centers prepared students for various roles, ensuring that religious and legal traditions were properly maintained and interpreted within state.

287. (C) The Ulemas.
The educational system provided by these institutions was essential for producing a class of highly educated individuals specialized in religious and legal knowledge. These graduates, known as scholars and theologians, went on to fill critical positions within the state's judicial and administrative bureaucracy. Their training ensured that the government had a steady supply of capable officials to handle complex legal and religious matters.

288. (B) A broad range of subjects including theology, law, logic, and philosophy.
The courses offered at these educational centers were comprehensive and spanned multiple disciplines. In addition to core religious subjects such as Quranic studies and prophetic traditions, the curriculum included rational sciences like logic and philosophy. In some instances, students also explored astronomy and medicine. This broad intellectual pursuit indicates that the institutions served as significant hubs for both religious and secular knowledge.

289. (D) They received significant support from rulers and nobles.
The growth and sustainability of these higher learning centers were largely due to the active support provided by the ruling elite and the nobility. By establishing and funding these institutions, rulers promoted intellectual development and ensured the training of necessary state officials. This patronage transformed these centers into major intellectual hubs that played a vital role in cultural and administrative life.

290. (A) By staffing the judicial and administrative bureaucracy.
Individuals who completed their studies at these institutions provided indispensable service to the government by filling essential roles in the administration. Their expertise in law and theology made them well-suited for positions within the judiciary and various bureaucratic departments. By applying their specialized knowledge to the needs of the state, they contributed to the stable functioning and legal consistency.

291. (C) Mughal School.
This specific artistic tradition flourished under the direct patronage of the imperial court. It was distinguished by a strong emphasis on naturalism, meticulous detailing, and the portrayal of formal court activities and individual likenesses. By blending indigenous artistic sensibilities with external aesthetic influences, this style reached high levels of refinement and became a defining feature of the era's visual heritage.

292. (A) The legends of Krishna and mythological narratives.
Deeply connected to the cultural ethos of specific regional courts, this style of painting frequently explored mythological and devotional subjects. Artists often focused on portraying the various legends associated with Krishna, using vibrant colors and an emotional, lyrical style. These works reflected the spiritual and cultural values of the local nobility, contributing to a rich tradition of regional artistic expression.

293. (D) Major schools of painting that developed regionally.
These various traditions represent the significant regional diversity that characterized the development of visual arts during this period. Each school emerged in a different geographic area, such as the Himalayan foothills or the desert plains, and developed its own unique aesthetic characteristics. Together, they demonstrate how artistic styles adapted to local cultural contexts while contributing to the overall cultural landscape.

294. (B) It saw the consolidation of Hindustani classical music and was integral to courtly and religious life.
The period was marked by the significant evolution and formalization of classical musical traditions across both northern and southern regions. New genres gained popularity, and

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music became an essential component of courtly activities, religious festivals, and spiritual gatherings. This flourishing of diverse musical styles reflected a pluralistic cultural environment where different influences merged to create a rich and enduring artistic heritage.

295. (C) They evolved through a synthesis of different cultural influences and flourished in diverse regional styles.
The artistic landscape of the era was characterized by a dynamic synthesis of indigenous traditions and external cultural influences. This process led to the emergence of highly refined and diverse styles in both painting and music. The existence of various regional schools highlights how different aesthetic ideas were adapted to local sensibilities, resulting in a rich and multifaceted cultural expression.

296. (D) A fusion of Turko-Persian traditions with indigenous Indian elements.
This architectural style emerged from the creative combination of Turko-Persian traditions and native building techniques found within the subcontinent. It featured the integration of elements like domes and arches with traditional local features such as decorative balconies and pavilions. This synthesis created a unique aesthetic that served both political ambitions and cultural expressions, resulting in some of the region's iconic monuments.

297. (A) Grandeur, symmetry, and the use of white marble and red sandstone.
At the height of imperial power, a specific building style emerged that was characterized by its immense scale, precise symmetry, and sophisticated aesthetic. Masterpieces from this era frequently utilized high-quality white marble and vibrant red sandstone to create visually stunning structures. These features collectively symbolized the imperial vision and political strength of the ruling dynasty while showcasing a high level.

298. (B) An integration of nature and architecture.
This specific design concept represented a highly sophisticated method of integrating natural elements with architectural structures. By using geometric precision and flowing water, these spaces were intended to evoke the feeling of a paradise on earth. This approach highlighted the importance of symmetry and order in landscaping, creating serene environments that perfectly complemented the grandeur of the surrounding palaces.

299. (B) The building of formidable forts for military defense.
Developed within a specific political and geographical context, this architectural style focused heavily on military requirements and defensive strategies. The construction of massive, formidable forts in rugged terrain showcased advanced engineering skills designed to withstand attacks and protect territory. These structures prioritized strength and strategic placement, reflecting the martial priorities and the need for security in a challenging landscape.

300. (A) Architectural expression was diverse and adapted to local conditions and traditions.
The existence of distinct building styles in various areas demonstrates that architectural expression was highly adaptable to local environments and traditions. While influenced by imperial aesthetic ideas, regional builders utilized local materials and responded to specific climatic conditions to create unique monuments. This diversity shows that the architectural landscape was not uniform but was instead shaped by particular needs.

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CHAPTER 07

Rise and Expansion of British Dominion in India

1. Which of the following is best described as official records of administration and policy, such as government reports, letters, and proceedings of government bodies?
(A) Creative Literature
(B) Archival Materials
(C) Oral Evidence
(D) Biographies

2. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Newspapers from the colonial period are considered a primary source for understanding public opinion and political discourse.
Statement II : Biographies and memoirs offer a purely objective and unbiased account of historical events and personalities.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

3. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Source Type)
P. Archival Material
Q. Creative Literature
R. Monument
S. Oral Evidence
List II: (Example)
1. Victoria Memorial in Kolkata
2. Folk songs about a local uprising
3. East India Company's court proceedings
4. A historical novel set during the British Raj
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

4. Which of the following European powers were the first to establish trading posts in India in the 16th century?
(A) The British
(B) The French
(C) The Dutch
(D) The Portuguese

5. Which of the following cannot be considered a primary reason for the eventual success of the British over other European powers in India?
(A) Superiority in naval strength and technology
(B) Stable political government and financial backing
(C) Strategic alliance with the Mughal central authority
(D) Effective leadership and advanced military strategy

6. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The establishment and expansion of the British dominion in India was a gradual process involving both warfare and diplomacy.
Reason (R) : The British East India Company was solely a trading entity and had no political or territorial ambitions until the 19th century.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

7. What was the primary cause of the conflict in the Carnatic region that involved the British and the French?
(A) Disputes over textile trade routes

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inclusive approach helped bridge gaps between different social groups, creating a more cohesive and integrated society through shared values of devotion.

261. (D) They advocated for a personal, egalitarian, and accessible form of religion.
During this period, spiritual figures championed a religious experience that was deeply personal and egalitarian. They sought to make divine connection accessible to all individuals, regardless of their social standing. By moving away from formal religious structures and complex rituals, these leaders encouraged a more direct and inclusive spiritual path, which resonated strongly with the masses and impacted society.

262. (B) The tradition of composing devotional poetry in vernacular languages.
In Southern India, specific groups of Vaishnavite and Shaivite saints established a vital foundation for later spiritual movements. They expressed their deep devotion through the composition of beautiful poetry in regional languages rather than classical ones. This practice ensured that religious ideas were communicated in a way the general public could understand, facilitating a wider dissemination of egalitarian and devotional concepts.

263. (C) By questioning caste discrimination and advocating for a more just social order.
The impact of these spiritual leaders extended far beyond the religious realm, reaching into the social and political spheres. By actively questioning caste-based discrimination and advocating for an egalitarian social order, they influenced the prevailing climate of the time. Their teachings promoted justice and equality, encouraging a re-evaluation of social rigidities and inspiring communities to seek a more fair society.

264. (D) They demonstrated that spiritual authority was not determined by gender.
Remarkable female figures during this era challenged existing patriarchal norms and societal expectations by pursuing independent paths of devotion. Their lives and works demonstrated that spiritual authority and attainment were not restricted by gender. By carving out a space for female expression, they offered powerful alternative roles and became enduring sources of inspiration, proving that the divine path was inclusive.

265. (A) Their devotional works and life stories became an enduring part of regional cultures.
The teachings and life experiences of these spiritual leaders left a permanent mark on the subcontinent's heritage. Their devotional hymns and narratives became integral components of regional cultural traditions, passed down through generations. By fostering a sense of shared identity and spiritual purpose, their legacy continues to influence social practices and remain a source of inspiration for people everywhere.

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266. (B) Belief in one formless God and the rejection of ritualism.
The foundation of this spiritual philosophy rests on the belief in a single, formless divine entity. The teachings emphasize the rejection of complex rituals, idol worship, and the hierarchical caste system that divided society. Instead, the focus is placed on leading an honest life, performing selfless service, and maintaining a constant remembrance of the divine through specific spiritual and meditative practices.

267. (B) The Adi Granth.
The compilation of this sacred text represented a major step in formalizing the faith's core principles. It brings together the profound teachings of the various spiritual leaders who guided the community. Additionally, it incorporates devotional works from diverse Hindu and Muslim saints, highlighting a syncretic approach. This scripture serves as the ultimate spiritual authority and a cornerstone of religious tradition.

268. (A) Give the Sikh community a distinct religio-military identity.
The creation of this disciplined community of initiated members marked a significant transition for the movement. It provided the followers with a distinct religio-military identity, defined by a specific code of conduct and recognizable articles of faith. This development was crucial for preparing the community to resist oppression, defend their fundamental rights, and uphold their religious beliefs against external threats.

Relations)
1. Annexation under the pretext of 'misgovernance'
2. Battle of Plassey
3. Tipu Sultan's resistance
4. Annexation after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

16. One of the major economic causes of the Revolt of 1857 was:
(A) The rapid expansion of the new railway system
(B) The ruin of traditional handicrafts and industries
(C) The promotion of indigo and tea plantation farming
(D) The establishment of a centralized banking system

17. The immediate cause for the start of the Revolt of 1857 was:
(A) The annexation of Oudh
(B) The issue of the greased cartridges for the new Enfield rifle
(C) The Doctrine of Lapse
(D) The passing of the General Service Enlistment Act

18. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Revolt of 1857 is often described by some historians as the 'First War of Indian Independence'.
Reason (R) : The Revolt was widespread and involved a significant portion of the Indian population from various classes with the clear aim of overthrowing British rule and establishing a unified, independent India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

19. Which of the following represents a significant impact of the Revolt of 1857?
(A) Enhanced administrative powers for the Company
(B) Vigorously applied policies of state annexation
(C) Administrative transfer from Company to the Crown
(D) Increased proportion of Indians in the British army

20. Identify the correct statement regarding the nature of the Revolt of 1857.
(A) Coordinated national movement across all of India
(B) Pure mutiny of sepoys with no civilian involvement
(C) Leadership exclusively from the educated middle class
(D) Diverse political, economic, and religious grievances

21. Consider the following statements about the administration of the East India Company:
1. The Regulating Act of 1773 was the first step by the British government to regulate the Company's affairs.
2. Pitt's India Act of 1784 established a system of dual control over the Company.
3. Charter Acts were passed every 20 years to renew the Company's charter and privileges.
4. The Company's administration was completely independent of the British Parliament until 1857.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

22. What was the concept of 'Paramountcy' as pursued by the British in India?
(A) A policy of non-interference in the affairs of princely states
(B) A claim of supreme British power over all native Indian rulers
(C) A system of equal partnership between the British and Indian kingdoms
(D) The principle of promoting local self-government in British territories

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76. All of the following were socio-religious causes for the discontent leading to the 1857 Revolt EXCEPT:
(A) The abolition of Sati
(B) The promotion of the Zamindari system
(C) The passing of the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act
(D) The introduction of the railway and telegraph

77. The term "Crown" in the context of British Indian administration after 1858 refers to:
(A) The Mughal Emperor
(B) The Pope in Rome
(C) The British Monarch and Parliament
(D) The rulers of the princely states

78. The evolution of the central structure under the East India Company began with the:
(A) Pitt's India Act, 1784
(B) Charter Act of 1833
(C) Government of India Act, 1858
(D) Regulating Act, 1773

79. The most significant contribution of Lord Ripon's resolution on Local Self-Government was that it:
(A) Aimed to use local bodies for political and popular education.
(B) Established fully autonomous village panchayats with no government control.
(C) Imposed a new set of taxes to be collected by local bodies.
(D) Was applicable only in the three presidency towns.

80. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (European Power)
P. Portuguese
Q. Dutch
R. French
S. British
List II: (Primary reason for their decline or limited success in India)
1. State-controlled nature and decisive military defeats ((E)g., Wandiwash)
2. Succeeded in establishing dominion
3. Shifted focus to the Spice Islands (Indonesia) and conflict with the British
4. Loss of naval monopoly, religious intolerance, and discovery of Brazil
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

81. Which of the following is an example of a 'Memoir' as a historical source?
(A) An official government report on a famine
(B) A personal account of events written by a participant years later
(C) A historical novel about the 1857 revolt
(D) A collection of laws passed by the legislative council

82. The expansion of the British dominion in India can be characterized as a process that involved:
(A) A combination of wars, subsidiary alliances, and annexations
(B) Only peaceful treaties and alliances
(C) Only direct conquest through major battles
(D) The purchasing of territory from Indian rulers

83. The introduction of the police system by the British under the Company was primarily intended to:
(A) Provide social services to the Indian population
(B) Train Indians in modern law enforcement techniques
(C) Protect the commercial and political interests of the British
(D) Replace the British army in all internal matters

84. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Government of India Act of 1919 introduced Dyarchy in the provinces.
Reason (R) : This system was a complete success and led to a smooth transfer of power to Indian ministers, fulfilling their demands for self-government.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

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(D) Universal adult franchise

32. The term 'Paramountcy' in the context of British India implies:
(A) Cultural superiority
(B) Political sovereignty over princely states
(C) Economic dominance
(D) Naval supremacy in the Indian Ocean

33. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Biographies and memoirs are valuable historical sources but must be used with caution.
Reason (R) : They often reflect the personal biases, self-justifications, and memory limitations of the author.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

34. The Anglo-Mysore wars were fought between the British and:
(A) Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan
(B) The Marathas
(C) The Nizam of Hyderabad
(D) The Nawab of Carnatic

35. Which of the following is an example of 'Oral Evidence' as a source of modern Indian history?
(A) The published diary of a British officer
(B) A government gazette notification
(C) An interview with a freedom fighter about their experiences
(D) A painting depicting a battle scene

36. Consider the following statements regarding the British Police system in India:
1. It was modeled on the police system prevalent in Britain.
2. The primary duties were to maintain law and order and prevent crim(E)
3. The system was established primarily to protect the interests of the common Indian peopl(E)
4. It served as a key instrument for suppressing dissent and nationalist movements.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

37. The Government of India Act of 1935 proposed the establishment of:
(A) A diarchy at the centre
(B) Complete independence for India
(C) An All-India Federation
(D) Separate electorates for all communities including women

38. The state of Oudh was annexed by the British in 1856 on the grounds of:
(A) The Doctrine of Lapse
(B) Alleged misgovernance by the Nawab
(C) The Nawab's failure to pay the subsidy
(D) An alliance between the Nawab and the French

39. Consider the following statements about the causes of the Revolt of 1857:
1. The introduction of the Enfield rifle with greased cartridges was the sole caus(E)
2. The British policy of annexing Indian states created widespread discontent among rulers.
3. Economic policies led to the impoverishment of peasants and artisans.
4. Social reforms by the British were seen as an interference in religious customs.
5. The Revolt was planned and led by the Indian National Congress.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 1, 3, and 4 only
(D) 2, 4, and 5 only

40. What does 'Creative Literature and Painting' as a source of history primarily help us understand?
(A) The social, cultural, and emotional climate of an era
(B) The exact dates of political events
(C) The economic statistics of the period
(D) The complete administrative structure of the government

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23. The development of the Civil Service under the Company was primarily aimed at:
(A) Providing employment to the Indian educated class
(B) Promoting social reform in Indian society
(C) Training Indians for future self-governance
(D) Efficient administration of vast Indian territories

24. Consider the following statements about the British relationship with Princely States under the Crown (after 1858):
1. The policy of annexation was officially abandone(D)
2. The states were guaranteed their territorial integrity and the right of adoption was accepte(D)
3. The British government claimed the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the states to ensure good governanc(E)
4. The concept of paramountcy was formally renounce(D)
5. All princely states were granted complete sovereignty and independence in foreign affairs.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, and 5 only
(D) 2, 4, and 5 only

25. The evolution of the judiciary under the East India Company was marked by an attempt to:
(A) Adopt the traditional Indian legal system exactly
(B) Create a system based solely on English law
(C) Create a uniform legal code and court hierarchy
(D) Give judicial powers exclusively to Indian judges

26. The main purpose of the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 was to:
(A) Introduce a system of separate electorates for Muslims to placate them
(B) Grant dominion status to India
(C) Establish fully responsible government in the provinces
(D) Abolish the post of the Secretary of State for India

27. Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. Battle of Buxar
2. Battle of Plassey
3. Arrival of the British East India Company
4. Arrival of the Portuguese in India

(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 3, 4, 2, 1
(C) 4, 2, 3, 1
(D) 3, 2, 4, 1

28. The term 'Diwani' in the context of the East India Company's administration in Bengal referred to the right to:
(A) Maintain an army
(B) Collect revenue and control civil justice
(C) Administer criminal justice
(D) Appoint the Nawab

29. Which of the following was NOT a major European trading power competing for influence in India during the 17th and 18th centuries?
(A) Portuguese
(B) Dutch
(C) Spanish
(D) French

30. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (British Governor-General/Viceroy)
P. Lord Dalhousie
Q. Lord Wellesley
R. Lord Ripon
S. Lord Canning
List II: (Associated Policy/Event)
1. First Viceroy, announced Queen's Proclamation
2. Resolution on Local Self-Government
3. Doctrine of Lapse
4. Subsidiary Alliance

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

31. A key feature of the Government of India Act of 1919 was the introduction of:
(A) Dyarchy in the provinces
(B) Provincial autonomy
(C) A federal court at the centre

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50. Identify the incorrect pair of a European power and its major settlement in India.
(A) Dutch - Mysore
(B) Portuguese - Goa
(C) British - Calcutta
(D) French - Pondicherry

51. Consider the following statements regarding the British Army in India before 1857:
1. The ratio of Indian sepoys to European soldiers was very high.
2. Sepoys were denied opportunities for promotion to higher ranks.
3. The army was used to conquer Indian territories and suppress internal revolts.
4. Sepoys were treated on par with their British counterparts in terms of salary and respect.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

52. The initiative for the establishment of 'Local Self-Government' in India in the 1880s is most famously associated with which Viceroy?
(A) Lord Curzon
(B) Lord Lytton
(C) Lord Dufferin
(D) Lord Ripon

53. The primary contribution of coins as a historical source is in the field of:
(A) Understanding literary traditions
(B) Analyzing architectural styles
(C) Reconstructing political and economic history
(D) Studying the history of painting

54. Consider the following statements about the French in India:
1. The French East India Company was heavily sponsored and controlled by the French stat(E)
2. Dupleix was a key figure who first used the strategy of interfering in local succession disputes.
3. The French successfully established a lasting territorial empire in Indi(A)
4. The decisive defeat at the Battle of Wandiwash curtailed French ambitions in Indi(A)
5. The French headquarters in India was at Calcutt(A)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 2, 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 5 only

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55. The Government of India Act, 1919, is also known as:
(A) The Morley-Minto Reforms
(B) The Simon Commission Report
(C) The Government of India Act, 1935
(D) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms

56. The term "Company" in the context of the historical administration of India during the 18th and 19th centuries refers to:
(A) The British East India Company
(B) The French East India Company
(C) The Dutch East India Company
(D) The Portuguese Trading Company

57. Arrange the following annexations by the British in chronological order:
1. Annexation of Punjab
2. Annexation of Oudh
3. Acquisition of Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa
4. Annexation of Mysore

(A) 3, 4, 1, 2
(B) 4, 3, 1, 2
(C) 3, 1, 4, 2
(D) 1, 3, 4, 2

58. What was the main purpose of the British policy of 'Paramountcy' in relation to the Princely States?
(A) To assert British supremacy and control their external relations
(B) To grant them independence
(C) To promote democratic reforms within the states
(D) To divide the states among British officials

59. The Queen's Proclamation of 1858, which followed the Revolt of 1857, promised:
(A) The introduction of self-government in India
(B) The withdrawal of all British troops from

provinces and introduced it at the centre.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

94. The rise of British power in India was facilitated by:
(A) The unity and strength of the central Mughal authority in the 18th century
(B) A policy of non-involvement in the affairs of Indian kingdoms
(C) The lack of any other European competitors in India
(D) The political disunity and internal conflicts among Indian states

95. In the context of the sources of history, what is a key limitation of relying solely on 'Archival Materials'?
(A) They primarily reflect the perspective of the ruling power or administration.
(B) They are often poorly preserved and difficult to read.
(C) They are too subjective and filled with personal opinions.
(D) They do not contain any information about economic matters.

96. Arrange the following British policies in the chronological order of their introduction:
1. Doctrine of Lapse
2. Subsidiary Alliance
3. Introduction of Dyarchy
4. Dual Government in Bengal
(A) 4, 2, 1, 3
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 1, 2, 3
(D) 1, 2, 4, 3

97. What was the 'Nizamat' function that the Nawab of Bengal retained under the Dual Government system?
(A) The right to collect revenue
(B) The responsibility for civil and criminal administration
(C) The control over the military
(D) The authority to conduct foreign policy

98. The Dutch focused their trading activities in Asia primarily on:
(A) The Spice Islands of Indonesia
(B) The Indian textile market
(C) The Chinese silk trade
(D) The Persian Gulf trade routes

99. An important administrative change brought about by the Crown's administration after 1858 was the:
(A) Disbanding of the entire Indian army
(B) Granting of complete authority to the princely states
(C) Creation of the post of Secretary of State for India in London
(D) Abolition of the provincial legislative councils

100. A key feature of the Morley-Minto reforms (1909) was that it:
(A) Introduced responsible government in the provinces.
(B) Allowed for the election of a majority of Indians to the central legislative council.
(C) Considerably increased the powers of the legislative councils.
(D) Introduced separate electorates for Muslims.

101. The 'steel frame' of the British administration in India, responsible for general administration and revenue collection, was the:
(A) Indian Army
(B) Indian Police
(C) Indian Civil Service
(D) Judiciary

102. The British policy of Paramountcy towards the princely states under the Crown meant that the states:
(A) Were completely sovereign and independent.
(B) Were treated as vassals with the British Crown as the ultimate sovereign power.
(C) Had sovereignty but their external affairs were controlled by the British.
(D) Were systematically annexed into British India.

103. The primary purpose of the establishment of Local Self-Government in the late 19th century was to:
(A) Prepare India for immediate independence.
(B) Weaken the nationalist movement.
(C) Fulfill a long-standing demand of the Indian

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(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

67. Which of the following sources would be most useful for understanding the official British perspective on an administrative policy?
(A) A nationalist newspaper
(B) A folk song about the policy's impact
(C) Archival materials like government proceedings
(D) A biography of a nationalist leader

68. The ruler of Punjab who maintained a powerful kingdom and successfully resisted British encroachment during his lifetime was:
(A) Tipu Sultan
(B) Siraj-ud-Daulah
(C) The Nizam of Hyderabad
(D) Maharaja Ranjit Singh

69. Consider the following statements regarding the administration under the Crown after 1858:
1. The Secretary of State for India was created, who was a member of the British cabinet.
2. The Governor-General was also given the title of Viceroy.
3. The East India Company continued to manage the commercial aspects of Indi(A)
4. The British government adopted a policy of rapid annexation of the remaining princely states.
5. The army was reorganized to increase the proportion of European soldiers.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, and 4 only

70. "Dyarchy" as introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919, referred to:
(A) A division of power between the central and provincial governments
(B) A division of provincial subjects into 'Reserved' and 'Transferred' categories
(C) A system of double government where both the British and Indian rulers governed jointly
(D) The rule of two Viceroys, one in Calcutta and one in Delhi

71. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The British Civil Service in India was initially called the 'Covenanted Civil Service' and was exclusively for Europeans.
Statement II : The Indian Civil Service examinations were held simultaneously in England and India from the very beginning of its inception.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

72. What was a major consequence of the Anglo-French rivalry in the Carnatic region?
(A) The establishment of British political supremacy in Southern India
(B) The decline of the Mughal Empire
(C) The rise of the Maratha confederacy
(D) The complete withdrawal of all European powers from India

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73. The state of Hyderabad was brought under British influence through:
(A) A direct war of conquest
(B) The application of the Doctrine of Lapse
(C) The acceptance of the Subsidiary Alliance system
(D) A popular referendum

74. A historian studying the 'nature' of the Revolt of 1857 would be most concerned with:
(A) Whether it was a mutiny, a national war, or a series of local uprisings
(B) The exact number of casualties
(C) The financial cost of suppressing the revolt
(D) The architectural style of buildings destroyed during the revolt

75. The Government of India Act 1935 is considered a landmark because:
(A) It granted complete independence to India.
(B) It abolished the princely states.
(C) It ended the system of separate electorates.
(D) It provided a framework that heavily influenced the Constitution of independent India.

41. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Dutch presence in India was more focused on trade than on building a territorial empire, compared to the British.
Statement II : The Dutch were decisively defeated by the British in the Battle of Wandiwash, ending their ambitions in India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

42. The evolution of the central and provincial structure under the East India Company demonstrated a trend towards:
(A) Increasing parliamentary oversight and centralization of control
(B) Decentralization of power to local Indian chiefs
(C) The establishment of a democratic republic
(D) The gradual withdrawal of the Company from administrative roles

43. Which treaty concluded the Third Anglo-Mysore War and forced Tipu Sultan to cede half of his kingdom?
(A) Treaty of Mangalore
(B) Treaty of Madras
(C) Treaty of Salbai
(D) Treaty of Seringapatam

44. The British established their first factory (trading post) in India with the permission of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Jahangir
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

45. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Act/Reform)
P. Morley-Minto Reforms (1909)
Q. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919)
R. Government of India Act (1935)
S. Indian Councils Act (1861)
List II: (Key Provision)
1. Provincial Autonomy
2. Introduction of Dyarchy in Provinces
3. Introduction of Separate Electorates
4. Association of Indians with law-making process
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

46. The concept of a 'Covenanted Civil Service' was introduced to:
(A) Allow Indians to hold high administrative posts from the very beginning.
(B) Create a separate judicial service.
(C) Recruit soldiers for the Company's army.
(D) Reserve senior administrative posts for Europeans.

47. In the context of British paramountcy, the policy towards Princely States after 1857 can be best described as a policy of:
(A) Subordinate union and patronage
(B) Rapid annexation
(C) Complete non-interference
(D) Granting them equal status

48. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Revolt of 1857 failed to overthrow British rule in India.
Reason (R) : The revolt lacked a unified command, a common vision for a post-British India, and did not spread to all parts of the country.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

49. What was the significance of the Battle of Buxar (1764) for the British?
(A) It established British control over the Carnatic region.
(B) It gave the British Diwani rights and made them the virtual rulers of Bengal.
(C) It ended the French challenge in India.
(D) It led to the annexation of Punjab.

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(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

85. A key difference between the British East India Company and the French East India Company was:
(A) The French Company focused on textiles, while the British Company focused on spices.
(B) The British Company had no military ambitions, unlike the French.
(C) The British Company was a private enterprise with more autonomy, while the French Company was a state department.
(D) The French Company operated from Calcutta, while the British Company operated from Pondicherry.

86. The annexation of which state is often considered a major political cause for the Revolt of 1857?
(A) Mysore
(B) Oudh
(C) Punjab
(D) Carnatic

87. Which constitutional reform first introduced the principle of separate electorates for Muslims in British India?
(A) Indian Councils Act, 1892
(B) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919
(C) Government of India Act, 1935
(D) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909

88. Consider the following statements about the impact of the Revolt of 1857:
1. The rule of the East India Company was ende(D)
2. The British embarked on a policy of social and religious non-interferenc(E)
3. The Indian army was reorganized with a higher proportion of Europeans.
4. The policy of annexing princely states was abandone(D)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

89. The British relationship with Punjab after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was characterized by:
(A) A policy of peaceful coexistence
(B) The immediate signing of a subsidiary alliance
(C) A period of political instability followed by two Anglo-Sikh wars and annexation
(D) The division of Punjab into smaller princely states

90. The concept of the 'Rule of Law' introduced by the British judiciary in India meant:
(A) The administration is carried out in accordance with the law, binding both the ruled and the rulers.
(B) The law was based on the whims of the ruler.
(C) Different laws for different social classes.
(D) Only British judges could interpret the law.

91. Which of the following was NOT a principal Indian state with whom the British had significant political and military relations during their expansion?
(A) Bengal
(B) Mysore
(C) Oudh
(D) The Chola Kingdom

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92. Consider the following historical sources:
1. Government of India gazettes
2. A historical film on Mahatma Gandhi
3. A biography of a British Viceroy
4. Folk tales about local heroes resisting the British
5. The ruins of the Residency in Lucknow

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct as primary sources for writing modern Indian history?
(A) 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) All of the above are not primary sources

93. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Government of India Act, 1935, provided for the establishment of a Federal Court.
Statement II : The Act abolished dyarchy in the

India
(C) The immediate industrialization of India
(D) To respect the rights, dignity, and honor of native princes

60. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Concept)
P. Doctrine of Lapse
Q. Subsidiary Alliance
R. Dual Government
S. Paramountcy
List II: (Description)
1. Claim of ultimate British authority over all Indian states
2. Division of administrative power in Bengal, with real authority held by the British
3. Annexation of a state if the ruler died without a natural heir
4. A system where an Indian ruler had to maintain British troops at his own cost
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

61. Which one of the following was NOT a centre of the Revolt of 1857?
(A) Delhi
(B) Lucknow
(C) Madras
(D) Kanpur

62. The main characteristic of the provincial structure under the East India Company was:
(A) Uniformity across all provinces from the beginning
(B) Complete independence from the central authority in Calcutta
(C) Governance by directly elected Indian representatives
(D) The creation of Presidencies (Bengal, Bombay, Madras) with considerable autonomy initially

63. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The introduction of Local Self-Government by Lord Ripon was a significant step towards administrative reform.
Reason (R) : The primary motive behind this reform was to train Indians in self-governance and to decentralize administration for better efficiency, though financial constraints limited its success.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

64. The "Carnatic Wars" were a series of military conflicts fought in the 18th century primarily between:
(A) The British and the Marathas
(B) The British East India Company and the French East India Company
(C) The British and the Mysore Sultanate
(D) The Portuguese and the Dutch

65. Identify the correct statement about the constitutional changes between 1909 and 1935.
(A) They consistently moved towards decreasing Indian participation in administration.
(B) They represented a gradual and limited transfer of power from British to Indian hands.
(C) They immediately granted full independence to India.
(D) They abolished the office of the Viceroy and Governor-General.

66. Consider the following statements about the establishment of British dominion:
1. The Battle of Plassey was more of a conspiracy than a military victory.
2. The Treaty of Allahabad granted the Company the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, and Oriss(A)
3. The Subsidiary Alliance system allowed the British to maintain armies at the expense of Indian rulers.
4. The British conquered all of India simultaneously in a single, well-planned campaign.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only

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National Congress.
(D) Reduce the financial and administrative burden on the central government.

104. Which of the following is NOT a form of 'Archival Material'?
(A) A historical novel
(B) Government orders
(C) Judicial records
(D) Official correspondence

105. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Leader of 1857 Revolt)
P. Kunwar Singh
Q. Begum Hazrat Mahal
R. Nana Saheb
S. Rani Lakshmibai
List II: (Region)
1. Jhansi
2. Kanpur
3. Lucknow
4. Arrah (Bihar)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

106. The Portuguese were able to establish their power in India primarily due to their:
(A) Superior naval power and control of sea routes
(B) Superior land army
(C) Strong support from the Mughal emperors
(D) Alliance with the French

107. The 'Establishment and Expansion of British Dominion in India' was a process that spanned from:
(A) A single decade in the mid-18th century
(B) The 16th century to the 17th century
(C) The year 1857 only
(D) The mid-18th century to the mid-19th century

108. The main grievance of the rulers of Indian states like Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi against the British, which led them to join the 1857 Revolt, was:
(A) The imposition of heavy taxes
(B) The annexation of their states under the Doctrine of Lapse
(C) The policy of Subsidiary Alliance
(D) Forced conversion to Christianity

109. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The British reorganized the army after the Revolt of 1857 by increasing the proportion of European soldiers and placing them in key positions.
Reason (R) : The Revolt of 1857 had demonstrated the dangers of depending heavily on Indian sepoys whose loyalty could not be taken for granted.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

110. The transfer of power from the East India Company to the British Crown was formalized by:
(A) The Government of India Act of 1858
(B) The Regulating Act of 1773
(C) The Pitt's India Act of 1784
(D) The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909

111. The term 'monument' as a source of history includes:
(A) Coins and inscriptions
(B) Buildings, forts, and memorials
(C) Personal diaries and letters
(D) Official government records

112. The Dyarchy system introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919, failed primarily because:
(A) Indian politicians were not competent enough to handle the transferred subjects.
(B) Illogical subject division and lack of financial control for ministers.
(C) The British governors refused to cooperate with the Indian ministers.
(D) The system was boycotted by all political parties in India.

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India.
(D) The granting of Dominion Status to India.

172. The primary motive of the Portuguese, Dutch, and early British traders in India was:
(A) Political conquest
(B) Religious conversion
(C) Commercial profit
(D) Exploration and discovery

173. The "Doctrine of Lapse" is most famously associated with which Governor-General?
(A) Lord Wellesley
(B) Lord Bentinck
(C) Lord Ripon
(D) Lord Dalhousie

174. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Revolt of 1857 was not confined to the army and saw widespread participation from civilians in some regions.
Reason (R) : The British policies of annexation, economic exploitation, and perceived interference in socio-religious customs had created deep resentment among various sections of Indian society.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

175. The evolution of the judiciary under the Company saw the establishment of a hierarchy of courts, which was an attempt to:
(A) Replicate the ancient Indian justice system exactly.
(B) Establish a regularised and systematic judicial administration.
(C) Create a system that was accessible and understandable to all Indians.
(D) Separate the judiciary from the executive branch completely.

176. The state of Oudh holds a significant place in the study of British relations with Indian states because:
(A) It was the first state to defeat the British in a major war.
(B) It was annexed on the grounds of misgovernance, which caused widespread resentment.
(C) It remained independent throughout the British period.
(D) It was the main base of the French in India.

177. One of the main reasons for the British success against other European powers in India was:
(A) They received strong financial and naval support from their home government.
(B) Their military was composed entirely of British soldiers.
(C) They refused to engage in local Indian politics.
(D) They focused only on trade and not on territory.

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178. A key provision of the Government of India Act, 1935 was:
(A) The introduction of Dyarchy in the provinces.
(B) The grant of complete independence.
(C) The proposal for an All-India Federation consisting of British India and the Princely States.
(D) The abolition of separate electorates.

179. Consider the following statements about the administration under the British Crown after 1858:
1. The Governor-General was made the Viceroy, a direct representative of the Crown.
2. The policy of annexing Indian states was officially renounce(D)
3. The Indian Civil Service was opened to Indians through competitive exams, though hurdles remaine(D)
4. The British adopted a policy of strict non-interference in the social and religious matters of Indians.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

(B) Eradicate poverty and social evils.
(C) Establish a welfare state in India.
(D) Provide large scale employment to Indians.

122. The British Parliament's control over the East India Company was significantly increased by which Act that established a Board of Control?
(A) Regulating Act of 1773
(B) Charter Act of 1813
(C) Charter Act of 1833
(D) Pitt's India Act of 1784

123. The primary value of newspapers as a source for modern Indian history lies in their ability to:
(A) Provide a completely unbiased and objective account of events.
(B) Reflect public opinion, political debates, and the growth of national consciousness.
(C) Offer detailed statistics on economic production.
(D) Document the personal lives of British officials.

124. The Battle of Plassey (1757) was a turning point in Indian history because:
(A) It ended Mughal rule in India.
(B) It resulted in the French capturing Calcutta.
(C) It led to the establishment of the British political power in India, starting with Bengal.
(D) It marked the final defeat of the Marathas.

125. The constitutional changes of 1909 are also known as:
(A) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
(B) The Government of India Act
(C) The Simon Commission
(D) The Morley-Minto Reforms

126. Which of the following best describes the nature of the Revolt of 1857?
(A) A complex event with participation from diverse social groups.
(B) A simple mutiny of sepoys with no other participation.
(C) A well-organized, pan-Indian national war of independence.
(D) A struggle between feudal chiefs and the British, with no popular support.

127. What was a key element of the Subsidiary Alliance treaty imposed by the British on Indian states?
(A) The Indian state had to cede its entire territory to the British.
(B) The Indian ruler had to accept a British Resident at his court and pay for the maintenance of a British contingent.
(C) The Indian ruler was required to convert to Christianity.
(D) The Indian state would share its revenue equally with the British.

128. The concept of "paramountcy" was often described by the British as:
(A) Clearly defined in international law.
(B) Paramount because it was paramount, deliberately leaving it vague and flexible.
(C) A fixed and static relationship.
(D) Applicable only to states that were defeated in war.

129. The administration of the East India Company officially ended and the administration was taken over by the Crown in which year?
(A) 1858
(B) 1773
(C) 1833
(D) 1857

130. The main aim of the Dutch and Portuguese traders in the 16th and 17th centuries was to:
(A) Establish a vast land empire in India.
(B) Promote political and social reforms in India.
(C) Monopolize the highly profitable trade in spices and other goods.
(D) Form an alliance to drive the Mughals out of India.

131. The Government of India Act, 1919 introduced which of the following in the provinces?
(A) Bicameral Legislature
(B) Provincial Autonomy
(C) Universal Suffrage
(D) Dyarchy

132. Which of the following princely states was the first to fall under the Subsidiary Alliance system of Lord Wellesley?
(A) Mysore

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(A) Archival materials
(B) Coins
(C) Official biographies
(D) Oral evidence like folk legends

151. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The expansion of the British dominion was a planned and swift process executed over a single decade.
Statement II : The British used a variety of methods, including wars, diplomacy, and administrative takeovers like the Doctrine of Lapse, over a long period to establish their dominion.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.

152. A key military-administrative institution established by the British to consolidate their rule was the:
(A) Village Panchayat system
(B) The public works department for building temples
(C) The Army, which was reorganized to serve British interests
(D) The council of religious advisors

153. The system of 'Dyarchy' introduced by the Act of 1919 was applied to:
(A) The Provincial Governments
(B) The Central Government
(C) The Princely States
(D) The Judiciary

154. Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. Government of India Act, 1935
2. Morley-Minto Reforms
3. Transfer of power from Company to Crown
4. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1

155. The principal objective of Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on Local Self-Government was:
(A) To increase government revenue from local taxes.
(B) To use local bodies as instruments of political and popular education.
(C) To create a new layer of administration to suppress nationalism.
(D) To immediately grant full independence to local bodies.

156. Which European power's trading presence in India was the most short-lived and least impactful compared to others?
(A) Portuguese
(B) British
(C) Dutch
(D) French

157. Which of the following best describes the British policy towards Princely States after the Revolt of 1857?
(A) Policy of annexation
(B) Policy of complete non-interference
(C) Policy of granting independence
(D) Policy of subordinate union and cooperation

158. The 'nature' of the 1857 revolt is a subject of historical debate, with viewpoints ranging from 'sepoy mutiny' to:
(A) 'The First War of Indian Independence'
(B) 'A purely religious war'
(C) 'A conflict between merchants'
(D) 'An agrarian protest only'

159. What was the primary role of the British Resident placed in an Indian state under the Subsidiary Alliance?
(A) To act as a religious advisor to the ruler.
(B) To interfere in the internal affairs of the state and safeguard British interests.
(C) To command the state's army in battle.
(D) To promote trade and commerce for the benefit of the Indian state.

160. The Government of India Act, 1935, granted a large measure of autonomy to:
(A) The Central Government
(B) The Provinces
(C) The Princely States
(D) The Judiciary

161. The main limitation of using 'Biographies and Memoirs' as a historical source is their inherent:

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(D) Three major presidencies: Bengal, Bombay, and Madras.

142. The British relationship with the Carnatic was characterized by:
(A) The British using succession disputes to increase their own influence against the French.
(B) The British consistently supporting a single claimant to the throne.
(C) A policy of strict non-interference.
(D) The immediate annexation of the Carnatic in the mid-18th century.

143. Identify the incorrect statement about the sources of modern Indian history.
(A) Archival records provide an official, though often biased, perspective.
(B) Oral evidence is always factually precise and should be accepted without cross-verification.
(C) Biographies and memoirs are subjective accounts that can offer personal insights.
(D) Creative literature and paintings reflect the cultural and social milieu.

144. Consider the following statements about the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909:
1. It introduced a system of direct elections for all seats in the legislatures.
2. It introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
3. It significantly increased the powers of the legislative councils to include passing the budget.
4. It allowed for the appointment of Indians to the Viceroy's executive council for the first tim(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

145. The transition from the administration of the East India Company to the administration of the British Crown was a direct consequence of the:
(A) Revolt of 1857
(B) Battle of Plassey
(C) Charter Act of 1833
(D) Ilbert Bill Controversy

146. A primary feature of the British Paramountcy in the Princely States under the Crown was:
(A) The right of the states to have their own independent armies.
(B) The complete internal sovereignty of the Indian rulers.
(C) The British government's right to intervene in internal affairs in case of 'misrule'.
(D) The right of the states to enter into foreign alliances.

147. The Dutch presence in India declined in the 18th century mainly because:
(A) They were defeated by the Portuguese.
(B) They decided to voluntarily withdraw from India.
(C) The Mughal emperor expelled them.
(D) Their focus shifted to the more profitable spice trade in Indonesia and they lost to the British in India.

148. The Government of India Act, 1935, is significant because many of its features, such as the federal structure, provincial autonomy, and bicameral legislature, were incorporated into:
(A) The US Constitution
(B) The Charter of the United Nations
(C) The Constitution of India
(D) The Government of India Act, 1919

149. Consider the following statements about the British Civil Service in India:
1. Lord Cornwallis is known as the 'father of the civil service' in Indi(A)
2. The service was created to establish a strong and efficient administrative system.
3. Initially, higher posts were reserved exclusively for Europeans.
4. Competitive examinations for recruitment were held from the very beginning.
5. Indians were freely admitted to the 'Covenanted' service before 1853.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 2, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, and 4 only

150. Which of the following sources would be least reliable for constructing a factual timeline of political events?

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(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

190. The evolution of the central structure under the East India Company saw the Governor of Bengal being elevated to Governor-General of Bengal by which Act?
(A) Regulating Act, 1773
(B) Pitt's India Act, 1784
(C) Charter Act, 1833
(D) Charter Act, 1853

191. Which European power retained control over territories like Goa, Daman, and Diu until 1961?
(A) The French
(B) The Portuguese
(C) The British
(D) The Dutch

192. The primary impact of the Revolt of 1857 on the administration of India was:
(A) The immediate grant of independence.
(B) The end of the East India Company's rule and the assumption of direct control by the British Crown.
(C) The expansion of the Company's territories.
(D) The complete withdrawal of the British army from India.

193. The British relationship with the Nizam of Hyderabad was cemented by the latter's acceptance of:
(A) The Subsidiary Alliance
(B) The Doctrine of Lapse
(C) A military defeat in a major war
(D) The demands of the French

194. The most significant feature of the Government of India Act of 1909 was the:
(A) Introduction of dyarchy
(B) Grant of provincial autonomy
(C) Introduction of separate electorates for Muslims
(D) Establishment of a federal court

195. The purpose of developing the Civil Service, Judiciary, Police, and Army under the Company was to:
(A) Prepare Indians for self-rule.
(B) Promote the welfare and prosperity of the Indian people.
(C) Fulfill the Company's charter obligations to the British Crown.
(D) Create the administrative and military apparatus for ruling a vast colonial empire.

196. The concept of 'Local Self-Government' introduced in the 1880s was a system of:
(A) National governance by elected Indians.
(B) Rule by traditional caste panchayats.
(C) Local administration by bodies with elected Indian members.
(D) Administration by military officials at the local level.

197. The study of paintings from the period of British India would be most useful for understanding:
(A) The exact proceedings of the legislative council.
(B) The changing social hierarchies, customs, and British-Indian interactions.
(C) The details of land revenue settlements.
(D) The gross domestic product of the country.

198. The rise of British power in the 18th century was contemporary with the:
(A) Height of the Mughal Empire under Akbar.
(B) The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) The invasion of Alexander the Great.
(D) The decline and fragmentation of the Mughal Empire.

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199. The key cause of the Anglo-French rivalry in India was:
(A) Their global commercial and imperial rivalry, which was extended to India.
(B) Religious differences.
(C) A dispute over the succession to the Mughal throne.
(D) A disagreement over the use of the port of Surat.

200. Which one of the following was NOT an 'Archival Material' in the context of sources for modern Indian history?
(A) Proceedings of the East India Company's Court of Directors
(B) Official letters exchanged between Viceroys and the Secretary of State
(C) A biography of a nationalist leader written by his contemporary
(D) Land revenue records of a district

(A) Subjectivity and potential for personal bias
(B) Lack of detail
(C) Official and dry language
(D) Focus on economic data

162. The British were able to establish their dominion over India due to a combination of factors, a key one being:
(A) The support they received from all Indian rulers.
(B) Their policy of promoting Indian industries.
(C) The weakness and internal conflicts of the successor states of the Mughal Empire.
(D) The complete absence of any other European power.

163. The codification of laws under the British, such as the Indian Penal Code, aimed to:
(A) Strictly enforce traditional religious laws.
(B) Create separate laws for each province.
(C) Give complete judicial authority to local headmen.
(D) Introduce uniformity and establish the principle of Rule of Law.

164. In the context of British Indian history, the term 'Crown' refers to the period of direct rule over India by:
(A) The East India Company
(B) The Mughal Emperor
(C) The British Government
(D) The Maratha Confederacy

165. A significant change in the army after the 1857 revolt was:
(A) The complete disbanding of the Indian sepoy units.
(B) The introduction of the 'divide and rule' policy by creating regiments based on caste and community.
(C) A decrease in the number of British soldiers.
(D) Handing over the command of the army to Indian officers.

166. Identify the correct pair:
(A) Lord Dalhousie - Subsidiary Alliance
(B) Lord Wellesley - Doctrine of Lapse
(C) Lord Curzon - Morley-Minto Reforms
(D) Lord Ripon - Local Self-Government

167. The Anglo-Sikh wars resulted in the:
(A) Annexation of Punjab into the British Indian empire.
(B) Establishment of a subsidiary alliance with Punjab.
(C) Restoration of the Sikh kingdom's full sovereignty.
(D) Division of Punjab between the British and the French.

168. What was the most significant outcome of the Carnatic Wars?
(A) The rise of Maratha power
(B) The decline of the Mughal empire
(C) The establishment of British supremacy over the French in India
(D) The independence of Hyderabad

169. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Term)
P. Separate Electorates
Q. Dyarchy in Provinces
R. All-India Federation
S. End of Company's Rule
List II: (Associated Act/Policy)
1. Government of India Act, 1935
2. Government of India Act, 1858
3. Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
4. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

170. The principal function of monuments and coins as historical sources is to help reconstruct:
(A) The literary trends of a period.
(B) The day-to-day social customs of the common people.
(C) The details of nationalist debates.
(D) The political, dynastic, and economic history.

171. The central feature of the Government of India Act of 1919 was:
(A) The introduction of responsible government at the Centre.
(B) The introduction of 'Dyarchy' in the provinces.
(C) The abolition of the Secretary of State for

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(B) Oudh
(C) Hyderabad
(D) Punjab

133. Which of the following is an example of creative literature being used as a historical source?
(A) Reading a government report on revenue collection.
(B) Analyzing a novel to understand the social tensions of a period.
(C) Examining the architectural plan of a fort.
(D) Studying a series of coins to determine a king's reign.

134. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (British Action)
P. First Subsidiary Alliance
Q. Annexation on grounds of misgovernance
R. Final annexation after two major wars
S. Site of the Battle of Plassey
List II: (Affected Indian State)
1. Punjab
2. Bengal
3. Hyderabad
4. Oudh
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

135. The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 assured the Indian princes that the British government:
(A) Would not annex their territories and would respect their treaties.
(B) Would continue the policy of annexation.
(C) Would force them to accept democratic reforms.
(D) Would confiscate all their wealth.

136. The 'Covenanted' Civil Service under the Company was so-named because the members had to sign a covenant:
(A) Pledging loyalty to the Mughal Emperor.
(B) Promising to convert to Christianity.
(C) Agreeing not to engage in private trade.
(D) Agreeing to serve for life without salary.

137. The establishment of local boards and municipalities across India, as envisioned by Lord Ripon's resolution on Local Self-Government, was intended to be a step in:
(A) The political education and training of Indians in administration.
(B) Centralizing all power in Calcutta.
(C) Strengthening the feudal system.
(D) Preparing for an immediate British withdrawal.

138. A major reason for the ultimate failure of the French to establish an empire in India was:
(A) Their lack of a naval presence in the Indian Ocean.
(B) Their refusal to get involved in the politics of Indian states.
(C) A complete lack of capable leaders and generals.
(D) The state-controlled, bureaucratic, and financially unsound nature of their company.

139. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Government of India Act, 1935 proposed an All-India Federation.
Reason (R) : The proposed federation came into being immediately and was welcomed by both the princely states and the Indian National Congress.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

140. The immediate military cause of the Revolt of 1857 was related to:
(A) Low salaries of the sepoys.
(B) The General Service Enlistment Act.
(C) The introduction of the Enfield Rifle.
(D) The abolition of foreign service allowance (bhatta).

141. The evolution of the provincial structure under the East India Company led to the formation of:
(A) A single, unified province of India.
(B) Autonomous city-states.
(C) A federation of princely states.

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180. The term 'Local Self-Government' refers to the administration of a locality by:
(A) A centrally appointed officer.
(B) The traditional village headman.
(C) Elected representatives of the local people.
(D) The military commander of the area.

181. Which of the following sources is most likely to provide an emotional and personal perspective on historical events?
(A) Government archival records
(B) Biographies and memoirs
(C) Coins and monuments
(D) Statistical data reports

182. The expansion of the British dominion in India was marked by a series of wars against major Indian powers, including:
(A) The Cholas and Pandyas
(B) The Guptas and the Mauryas
(C) The Pala and Sena dynasties
(D) The Marathas and the Mysore Sultanate

183. The police system under the Company was an instrument of the state used to:
(A) Maintain British authority and suppress opposition
(B) Promote social welfare
(C) Provide disaster relief
(D) Build public infrastructure

184. Consider the following statements regarding the British and other European powers in India:
1. The Portuguese maintained a monopoly on Indian trade throughout the 17th century.
2. The Dutch were more interested in the spice trade of the Indonesian archipelago than in building an Indian empir(E)
3. The French East India Company was a private body like its British counterpart.
4. The Anglo-French struggle for supremacy in India was manifested in the Carnatic Wars.
5. The British East India Company began as a purely trading body but gradually acquired political power.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 3, and 4 only
(B) 2, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 3, 4, and 5 only

185. The concept of "paramountcy" was used by the British to justify:
(A) Their intervention in the internal affairs of princely states.
(B) Their withdrawal from India.
(C) Granting equal status to princely states.
(D) The abolition of the zamindari system.

186. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Government of India Act, 1935, introduced Provincial Autonomy.
Statement II : Under Provincial Autonomy, all provincial power was transferred to ministers who were responsible to the legislature, and the Governor's special powers were abolished.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

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187. A major socio-religious cause for the Revolt of 1857 was the perception that the British were:
(A) Promoting traditional Indian education.
(B) Interfering with Indian customs like Sati and supporting widow remarriage.
(C) Discouraging Christian missionary activities.
(D) Maintaining a policy of strict religious neutrality.

188. The 'Nawab of Carnatic' was a key figure in the 18th-century conflicts because:
(A) He successfully defeated both the British and the French.
(B) He allied with the Marathas to conquer Bengal.
(C) His territory became the primary theatre of the Anglo-French rivalry in South India.
(D) He was the last independent Mughal governor.

189. Arrange the following events in chronological order of their occurrence:
1. First Anglo-Mysore War
2. Revolt of 1857
3. Battle of Buxar
4. Annexation of Punjab

(A) 1, 3, 4, 2
(B) 3, 1, 4, 2
(C) 1, 4, 3, 2

113. The British relationship with the state of Mysore under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan was one of:
(A) Intense rivalry and a series of four major wars
(B) Amicable friendship and alliance
(C) Indifference and non-interference
(D) A straightforward subsidiary alliance from the beginning

114. Consider the following statements about the development of the Judiciary under the Company:
1. Initially, separate legal systems were maintained for Europeans and Indians.
2. The process of codification of laws was undertaken to bring uniformity.
3. The Supreme Court was first established at Calcutta by the Regulating Act, 1773.
4. The judiciary was always completely independent of the executiv(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

115. The French ambitions of an empire in India were effectively ended by their defeat in the:
(A) First Carnatic War
(B) Battle of Plassey
(C) Second Anglo-Mysore War
(D) Third Carnatic War (Battle of Wandiwash)

116. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Oral evidence, such as folk songs and interviews, provides a glimpse into the perspectives of the common people, which are often missing from official records.
Statement II : Oral evidence is always factually accurate and free from any form of exaggeration or bias.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

117. The Government of India Act, 1935 was criticized by the Indian National Congress because:
(A) It did not propose a federal structure.
(B) Disproportional representation for the nominees of the Princes.
(C) It completely abolished the system of separate electorates.
(D) It made the Viceroy completely subordinate to the central legislature.

118. A major impact of the Revolt of 1857 on British policy was that:
(A) The British decided to leave India immediately.
(B) The British started a program of rapid industrialization to win over the masses.
(C) All Indians were disarmed and barred from government service.
(D) The British adopted a more cautious approach and sought to align with traditional Indian elites like princes and landlords.

119. Consider the following factors related to the rise of British power:
1. Superior military and naval technology.
2. Disunity and rivalry among Indian powers.
3. A stable and supportive government in Britain.
4. The use of diplomatic strategies like the Subsidiary Allianc(E)
5. The complete absence of resistance from any Indian stat(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, and 5 only

120. The central theme of the 'evolution of central and provincial structure under the East India Company' was the gradual:
(A) Increase in the power of provincial governors over the Governor-General.
(B) Transfer of all administrative powers to local village councils.
(C) Creation of a centralized system under the Governor-General.
(D) Decline of the Company's political power in favour of its commercial activities.

121. The most appropriate reason for the British to establish a professional police force in India was to:
(A) Consolidate its rule and maintain law and order that served its interests.

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201. The expansion of British dominion was greatly accelerated by Lord Wellesley's policy of:
(A) Subsidiary Alliance
(B) Doctrine of Lapse
(C) Masterly Inactivity
(D) Ring Fence

202. The British relationship with Bengal was transformed from that of a trader to a ruler following the:
(A) First Carnatic War
(B) Third Battle of Panipat
(C) First Anglo-Sikh War
(D) Battle of Plassey and Battle of Buxar

203. One of the major criticisms of the nature of the Revolt of 1857, when viewed as a 'war of independence', is its:
(A) Use of violence
(B) Lack of a unified vision for a post-British India
(C) Reliance on traditional feudal leaders
(D) Failure to involve the peasantry

204. The shift from Company to Crown administration in 1858 led to the creation of which new post in the British Cabinet?
(A) The Viceroy of India
(B) The Commander-in-Chief of India
(C) The Secretary of State for India
(D) The President of the Board of Control

205. The evolution of the central structure under the Company culminated in the Charter Act of 1833, which:
(A) Ended the Company's trade monopoly in tea and with China.
(B) Introduced competitive exams for the Civil Service.
(C) Established the Board of Control.
(D) Made the Governor-General of Bengal the Governor-General of India.

206. A key principle behind the organization of the army by the British after 1857 was:
(A) 'Divide and Rule' and balancing of communities within the army.
(B) To create a national Indian army.
(C) To increase the proportion of sepoys from regions that had revolted.
(D) To train Indian officers for highest command.

207. The main feature of Lord Ripon's resolution on Local Self-Government was its emphasis on:
(A) Financial decentralization to make provinces responsible for their own budgets.
(B) Using local bodies as a tool for political education.
(C) Nominating only British officials to local boards.
(D) Collecting more taxes from the rural population.

208. The Government of India Act, 1919, provided for a bicameral legislature at the Centre. This means:
(A) A legislature that can be vetoed by two different authorities.
(B) A legislature with two houses.
(C) A legislature where members are elected for two years.
(D) A legislature with two official languages.

209. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.
List I: (Region/State)
P. Carnatic
Q. Bengal
R. Oudh
S. Jhansi
List II: (Associated British Policy/Event)
1. Annexed by Doctrine of Lapse
2. Annexed on grounds of 'misgovernment'
3. Dual Government established after Battle of Buxar
4. Theatre of Anglo-French wars over succession disputes
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

210. Oral evidence as a source of history is particularly valuable for studying the:
(A) Economic policies of the government.
(B) Diplomatic history of the period.
(C) Subaltern or common people's perspective.
(D) Administrative structure of the company.

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211. The success of the British over other European powers like the Portuguese and Dutch in India can be attributed to:
(A) The strong support of the Mughal emperors for the British.
(B) The focus of the Portuguese and Dutch on the American continent.
(C) The British policy of free trade for all nations.
(D) Better resource management during the industrial revolution.

212. A significant impact of the Revolt of 1857 was the British decision to:
(A) Halt all railway construction projects.
(B) Increase their interference in the religious and social customs of Indians.
(C) Reorganize the army and stop the policy of expansion through annexation.
(D) Grant immediate dominion status to India.

213. The system of judiciary established by the East India Company was characterized by:
(A) A single, uniform law for all subjects from the beginning.
(B) The establishment of a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts.
(C) The complete exclusion of Indians from judicial positions.
(D) The sole use of traditional Hindu law.

214. The following question consists of two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 were intended to introduce a parliamentary system of government in India.
Reason (R) : The reforms introduced separate electorates, which was a step towards dividing the nationalist ranks, and Lord Morley himself stated that he had no intention of introducing a parliamentary system in India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

215. The British "Paramountcy" over princely states remained a cornerstone of British policy until:
(A) The Indian Independence Act, 1947
(B) The Revolt of 1857
(C) The Government of India Act, 1919
(D) The formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885

216. Identify the incorrect statement about the Government of India Act, 1935.
(A) It proposed an All-India Federation.
(B) It introduced provincial autonomy.
(C) It was fully implemented and the federation came into being.
(D) It provided for a Federal Court.

217. The rivalry between the British and French in India in the 18th century was a manifestation of:
(A) Their larger global political and commercial conflict.
(B) A personal feud between the company governors.
(C) A religious crusade.
(D) A dispute over the interpretation of Mughal farmans.

218. The annexation of Punjab by the British occurred after:
(A) The application of the Doctrine of Lapse.
(B) A voluntary offer by the Sikh rulers.
(C) The Revolt of 1857.
(D) The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and two subsequent wars.

219. Consider the following statements about the causes of the 1857 Revolt:
1. Economic exploitation by the British ruined Indian industries.
2. The British policy of annexations angered Indian rulers.
3. The activities of Christian missionaries caused alarm among many Indians.
4. The revolt was solely a conspiracy by the Mughal emperor to regain power.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

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220. The term 'Diarchy' under the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms meant a division of subjects at the provincial level into:
(A) Central and Provincial
(B) Federal and Concurrent
(C) Reserved and Transferred
(D) Civil and Military

221. The primary source that gives insight into the official policies and administrative decisions of the Company and the Crown are:
(A) Creative Literature
(B) Oral Evidence
(C) Newspapers
(D) Archival Materials

222. The British relations with Mysore under Tipu Sultan were hostile primarily because:
(A) Tipu Sultan was perceived as a major threat to British ambitions in South India due to his military strength and French alliance.
(B) Tipu Sultan refused to trade with the British.
(C) Tipu Sultan was a vassal of the Marathas.
(D) Tipu Sultan had annexed the Carnatic.

223. Which of the following best defines the historical 'Establishment and Expansion of British Dominion'?
(A) The process of setting up trading posts in the 16th century.
(B) Transformation from trading power to paramount political power.
(C) The period of constitutional reforms from 1909 to 1935.
(D) The cultural influence of Britain on Indian society.

224. Consider the following statements about the administration of the Company and the Crown:
1. Under the Company, the administration was headed by a Governor-General accountable to the Board of Control and Court of Directors.
2. Under the Crown, the administration was headed by a Viceroy accountable to the Secretary of State and the British Parliament.
3. The Revolt of 1857 was the event that precipitated the transfer of power.
4. The Company continued to rule India in partnership with the Crown after 1858.
5. The basic administrative structure, like the civil service and judiciary, was completely dismantled in 1858.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 2, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, and 4 only

225. The initial purpose of the European trading companies in India was to:
(A) Procure Indian goods like spices and textiles for the European market.
(B) Acquire territory and establish colonies.
(C) Spread Christianity across the subcontinent.
(D) Introduce modern education and technology in India.

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226. The transfer of government from the 'Company' to the 'Crown' meant that the ultimate responsibility for governing India lay with the:
(A) Board of Control
(B) Court of Directors
(C) British Parliament
(D) Viceroy's Executive Council

227. In the system of Dyarchy, the 'Transferred' subjects were administered by:
(A) The Governor and his executive council.
(B) The Viceroy directly.
(C) The Secretary of State for India.
(D) The Governor acting with ministers responsible to the legislative council.

228. The main impact of British rule on the Indian economy, which became a cause for the 1857 Revolt, was:
(A) Rapid industrialization of India.
(B) The creation of a large and prosperous middle class.
(C) The de-industrialization and ruin of traditional artisans and craftsmen.
(D) A policy of protecting Indian industries from foreign competition.

229. The British policy towards the Princely States, known as Paramountcy, ensured that the states:
(A) Remained fully independent.
(B) Lost their external sovereignty and were subject to British suzerainty.
(C) Lost their internal autonomy but retained control over external affairs.

(D) Were all annexed into British India by 1900.

230. Consider the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Government of India Act of 1935 envisioned the establishment of an All-India Federation.
Statement II : This Federation was successfully formed as the princely states eagerly joined it.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

231. Which of the following was NOT a major trading center for the Portuguese in 16th century India?
(A) Calcutta
(B) Calicut
(C) Goa
(D) Cochin

232. The administration of the East India Company was first brought under the control of the British Parliament through the:
(A) Pitt's India Act
(B) Charter Act of 1813
(C) Regulating Act
(D) Government of India Act 1858

233. The British relationship with the Marathas in the late 18th and early 19th centuries was characterized by:
(A) A series of wars that ultimately broke the Maratha power and led to British ascendancy.
(B) A consistent and peaceful alliance.
(C) British acceptance of Maratha paramountcy in India.
(D) A policy of complete non-interference by the British.

234. What is a key weakness of using newspapers as a historical source?
(A) They are not available for the modern period.
(B) They do not contain any dates.
(C) They are written in languages that are no longer understood.
(D) They are often partisan and reflect the political leanings of their editors and owners.

235. The most significant long-term impact of the Revolt of 1857 was:
(A) The economic drain from India stopped.
(B) It led to the end of Company rule and major administrative and policy changes by the British Crown.
(C) India was divided into numerous independent states.
(D) The British immediately left India.

236. The 'evolution of the judiciary' under the Company aimed at creating a system that would:
(A) Be based entirely on the Shastras and Sharia.
(B) Give preference to Indians over Europeans in all legal matters.
(C) Help in the efficient administration of a colonial state and its commercial interests.
(D) Be completely independent of the executive from its very inception.

237. The principle of 'Local Self-Government' was a step towards:
(A) Complete centralization of power.
(B) Abolishing all forms of local taxes.
(C) Establishing military rule in districts.
(D) Decentralization and association of Indians in local administration.

238. The constitutional reforms of 1909, 1919, and 1935 collectively represent a British strategy of:
(A) A process of calculated, gradual concessions to rising nationalist pressure.
(B) Rapidly preparing India for independence.
(C) Systematically excluding Indians from all forms of governance.
(D) Strengthening the power of the princely states against British India.

239. The term "European Traders" in historical contexts refers to companies and individuals who came to India from the 16th century onwards for:
(A) Military conquest only
(B) Trade and commerce, which later led to political ambitions
(C) Tourism and pilgrimage
(D) Agricultural development

240. The final phase of expansion of the British dominion was completed under Lord Dalhousie through:

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(A) Exclusively through warfare
(B) The aggressive application of policies like the Doctrine of Lapse
(C) The purchasing of territories from rulers
(D) The signing of peaceful treaties of friendship

241. British relations with Bengal took a decisive turn at the Battle of Plassey, which was essentially:
(A) A conspiracy and betrayal leading to an easy British victory
(B) A major naval battle
(C) A hard-fought military contest
(D) A diplomatic negotiation

242. The nature of the 1857 Revolt can be described as multifaceted because it:
(A) Only involved sepoys.
(B) Was a purely peasant uprising.
(C) Combined a military mutiny with a civilian rebellion in certain areas.
(D) Was led entirely by the educated middle class.

243. The transition from Company to Crown rule meant that the Indian administration became directly accountable to the:
(A) Mughal Emperor
(B) Board of Directors of the EIC
(C) Princely States
(D) British Parliament

244. The evolution of the central structure under the EIC was a process of increasing:
(A) Decentralization
(B) Indianization
(C) Centralization and Parliamentary control
(D) Democratization

245. The British army in India was reorganized after 1857 to:
(A) Increase the ratio of Indian soldiers to British soldiers.
(B) Prevent a similar revolt by creating a more reliable and controlled military force.
(C) Hand over command to Indian officers.
(D) Disband all artillery units.

246. The resolution on Local Self-Government in 1882 is considered a landmark because it:
(A) Mandated elections for all local bodies.
(B) Made local bodies financially independent of the provincial government.
(C) Gave local bodies judicial powers.
(D) Laid down the general principles for the development of local self-governing institutions.

247. The primary objective of the constitutional changes from 1909 to 1935 was to:
(A) Respond to Indian nationalist demands with limited concessions while retaining ultimate British control.
(B) Grant immediate and full self-government to India.
(C) Abolish the princely states and unify India.
(D) Reverse the process of Indian association with the administration.

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248. Which of the following is an example of a monument as a historical source?
(A) A copy of the Indian Penal Code
(B) A folk song about the 1857 revolt
(C) The Victoria Memorial in Calcutta
(D) A letter from a British officer

249. The rise of British power over other European rivals like the French was decisively established by:
(A) The outcome of the Carnatic Wars
(B) The Battle of Plassey
(C) The Portuguese-British treaty of 1661
(D) The Battle of Buxar

250. The Anglo-Sikh wars resulted in the:
(A) Annexation of Punjab into the British Indian empire.
(B) Establishment of a subsidiary alliance with Punjab.
(C) Restoration of the Sikh kingdom's full sovereignty.
(D) Division of Punjab between the British and the French.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The reconstruction of modern Indian history relies on a diverse and multifaceted body of source material, each offering a unique lens through which to view the past. Archival materials, which include official records, government reports, and administrative correspondence, form the bedrock of historical inquiry, providing insight into the

structure and functioning of the state. However, these official narratives are often complemented and contested by personal accounts, such as biographies and memoirs, which offer subjective, individual perspectives on historical events and personalities. Newspapers from the period serve as a crucial repository of public opinion, political debates, and social discourses, chronicling the era's zeitgeist. To access non-elite and marginalized voices, historians turn to oral evidence, which, despite its challenges in verification, can reveal subaltern experiences often absent from written records. Furthermore, creative literature and painting provide an invaluable cultural archive, reflecting societal values, anxieties, and responses to colonial rule. Finally, material sources like monuments and coins offer tangible evidence of architectural trends, political authority, and economic conditions, grounding historical narratives in physical reality. A comprehensive historical understanding, therefore, necessitates a critical and integrated analysis of this wide array of sources.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what is the primary role of archival materials in historical reconstruction?
(A) To provide subjective, individual perspectives on historical events.
(B) To form the foundational basis for understanding state structure and function.
(C) To capture the non-elite and marginalized voices of the past.
(D) To offer tangible evidence of architectural and economic trends.

252. Which source material is described as being particularly valuable for understanding subaltern experiences?
(A) Oral evidence.
(B) Newspapers and government reports.
(C) Biographies and memoirs of elites.
(D) Monuments and coins.

253. The passage suggests that a comprehensive understanding of modern Indian history is achieved through:
(A) a singular focus on official archival records for objective truth.
(B) the prioritization of creative literature over administrative correspondence.
(C) a critical and integrated analysis of diverse source types.
(D) an exclusive reliance on material evidence like coins and monuments.

254. What function do newspapers primarily serve as a historical source, as per the text?
(A) They provide the official narrative of the administrative state.
(B) They offer a confidential, personal account of historical figures.
(C) They are the main source of information on architectural trends.
(D) They document public opinion, social discourses, and political debates.

255. The passage implies that biographies and memoirs are distinct from archival materials because they:
(A) are more reliable for understanding economic conditions.
(B) are less useful for historical reconstruction.
(C) present a more subjective and individual viewpoint.
(D) focus exclusively on marginalized voices.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The period from the 16th to the 18th centuries witnessed a transformative phase in India's relationship with the world, marked by the arrival and competition of various European traders. The Portuguese were pioneers, establishing a maritime presence that sought to control the lucrative spice trade routes. Following them, the Dutch also focused heavily on commercial ventures, particularly in the spice-rich islands, challenging Portuguese hegemony. The primary contest for ultimate supremacy, however, developed between the French and the British. This rivalry transcended mere commerce, escalating into military and political confrontations. Both the French and British East India Companies established fortified trading posts, which served as bases for their commercial operations and military ambitions. They actively engaged in the subcontinent's local politics, forging alliances with Indian rulers to gain advantages over their European counterparts. The eventual success

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of the British can be attributed to their superior ability to synergize commercial interests with a robust military strategy and astute political maneuvering. This process gradually shifted their role from that of mere traders to potent political actors, laying the essential groundwork for the establishment of their future dominion in India.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What does the passage identify as the primary area of focus for the early Dutch traders in India?
(A) Establishing political dominion over the entire subcontinent.
(B) Engaging in the spice trade and challenging the Portuguese.
(C) Competing primarily with the British for textile trade.
(D) Forging alliances with all Indian rulers against the French.

257. According to the text, the rivalry between the French and the British was distinct because it:
(A) was confined exclusively to peaceful commercial activities.
(B) was resolved through alliances with the Portuguese and Dutch.
(C) focused solely on challenging the authority of Indian rulers.
(D) transcended commerce and involved military and political conflict.

258. The passage suggests that the key to British success over other European powers was their:
(A) effective integration of commercial, military, and political strategies.
(B) exclusive focus on peaceful trade and diplomacy.
(C) pioneering role in discovering the sea routes to India.
(D) decision to avoid engagement in the local politics of India.

259. What was the initial role of the fortified trading posts established by the European companies?
(A) They served purely as cultural exchange centers.
(B) They were exclusively for diplomatic negotiations with Indian rulers.
(C) They were bases for both commercial and military activities.
(D) They were intended to challenge the maritime power of the Portuguese.

260. The passage describes the transformation of the British role in India as a:
(A) gradual shift from commercial traders to political powers.
(B) sudden and violent conquest planned from the outset.
(C) direct result of their partnership with the French.
(D) predetermined outcome based on their initial charter.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The establishment and expansion of British dominion in India was not a monolithic, pre-planned event but an incremental and multifaceted process that unfolded over nearly two centuries. It began from tentative commercial footholds and evolved into a vast territorial empire. The expansion was propelled by a combination of factors, including direct military conquests that defeated powerful Indian states, the formation of strategic alliances, and the use of astute, often coercive, diplomacy. A key instrument in this expansion was the policy of creating subsidiary states, which allowed the British to exert control without the burden of direct administration. This method, along with the later use of administrative pretexts for annexation, proved highly effective in neutralizing potential rivals and absorbing territories. The geographical progression of British power was characteristically uneven, radiating outwards from their primary bases in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay into the Indian hinterland. This relentless expansion fundamentally altered the political landscape of the subcontinent, systematically subordinating or replacing a mosaic of regional polities with a centralized imperial structure, thereby cementing British dominion over India.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, the expansion of the British dominion is best described as:
(A) a rapidly executed and pre-planned conquest.
(B) a process primarily driven by peaceful

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treaties.
(C) an expansion that was geographically uniform and simultaneous.
(D) an incremental process involving multiple methods.

262. The text identifies which of the following as a key diplomatic and political tool for British expansion?
(A) The promotion of free trade among all Indian states.
(B) The creation of subsidiary states to exert indirect control.
(C) The encouragement of regional powers to fight amongst themselves.
(D) The establishment of a uniform legal code across the subcontinent.

263. What does the passage suggest about the geographical nature of British expansion?
(A) It was uniform, with all regions being annexed at the same time.
(B) It was random and lacked any strategic direction.
(C) It started from coastal bases and moved progressively inland.
(D) It focused exclusively on northern India, ignoring the south.

264. The primary outcome of the British expansion, as stated in the passage, was the:
(A) preservation and strengthening of regional Indian kingdoms.
(B) creation of a loose confederation of independent states.
(C) establishment of a purely commercial, non-political empire.
(D) replacement of regional polities with a centralized imperial structure.

265. The passage implies that British expansion was driven by:
(A) a flexible strategy adapting military, diplomatic, and administrative tactics.
(B) a single, unchanging policy of direct military conquest.
(C) a desire to culturally unify the Indian subcontinent.
(D) the complete absence of resistance from Indian rulers.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The consolidation of British power in India was contingent upon the management of its relationships with the principal Indian states. This process was complex and varied, tailored to the specific circumstances of each state. In Bengal, the relationship evolved rapidly from a commercial one to direct political control following key military victories, making it the cornerstone of the nascent British Empire. With Oudh, the British maintained a long-standing but deeply interventionist relationship, culminating in its annexation on grounds of misgovernance, a move that highlighted the use of administrative pretexts for political ends. The relationship with Hyderabad was structured around a subsidiary alliance, which secured its position as a loyal client state but eroded its sovereignty. In contrast, the engagements with Mysore and the Punjab were characterized by intense military conflict. The formidable resistance from Mysore required a series of wars to subdue, while the powerful and well-organized Sikh kingdom in the Punjab was only overcome through two hard-fought Anglo-Sikh wars. The relationship with the Carnatic was one of increasing British interference in its internal succession disputes, ultimately leading to its complete absorption. Each of these relationships demonstrates a different facet of the overarching British strategy of asserting dominance, whether through direct conquest, subsidiary alliances, or political manipulation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. According to the passage, the British relationship with which state was foundational to their empire and evolved from commerce to direct control?
(A) Mysore
(B) Bengal
(C) Punjab
(D) Hyderabad

267. The passage distinguishes the British engagement with Mysore and Punjab from that with Hyderabad by highlighting the presence of:
(A) peaceful subsidiary alliances.
(B) intense military conflict.
(C) immediate and voluntary annexation.

(D) long-standing commercial ties.

268. What method did the British primarily use to manage their relationship with Hyderabad, as described in the text?
(A) A subsidiary alliance that made it a client state.
(B) Direct annexation after a major war.
(C) A policy of non-interference in its internal affairs.
(D) The use of misgovernance as a pretext for takeover.

269. The annexation of Oudh is presented in the passage as an example of:
(A) a mutually beneficial partnership.
(B) a straightforward military conquest.
(C) the use of administrative pretexts for political gain.
(D) British respect for state sovereignty.

270. What overarching theme connects the diverse British relationships with the principal Indian states mentioned in the text?
(A) The uniform application of a single policy of non-intervention.
(B) The promotion of a federal structure of equal states.
(C) The encouragement of inter-state conflicts without British involvement.
(D) The consistent goal of asserting British dominance through varied strategies.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Revolt of 1857 was a watershed event in modern Indian history, the causes of which were complex and multi-layered, accumulating over a century of British expansion. Political grievances stemmed from the annexation of states and the dispossession of traditional ruling elites. Economic causes included the disruption of traditional industries, heavy land revenue assessments, and the economic drain of wealth. Social and religious anxieties were fueled by fears that British policies and the activities of missionaries were aimed at undermining traditional Indian society and converting the populace to Christianity. The immediate catalyst was the introduction of new rifle cartridges greased with animal fat, which offended the religious sensibilities of both Hindu and sepoy soldiers. The nature of the revolt remains a subject of academic debate: while some view it as a mere sepoy mutiny that got out of hand, others interpret it as a more organized, national uprising or a war of independence. Regardless of its nature, the impact of the revolt was profound. It led to the end of the East India Company's rule and the transfer of power directly to the British Crown, ushering in a new era of direct imperial administration and a significant reorganization of the army and civil services.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. According to the passage, which of the following was an economic cause of the Revolt of 1857?
(A) The introduction of new rifle cartridges.
(B) The annexation of princely states.
(C) Heavy land revenue assessments.
(D) The promotion of missionary activities.

272. What does the text identify as the immediate trigger for the Revolt of 1857?
(A) The economic drain of wealth from India.
(B) The introduction of cartridges greased with animal fat.
(C) The annexation of Oudh.
(D) Widespread famine and agricultural distress.

273. The passage indicates that the 'nature' of the Revolt of 1857 is debated, with interpretations ranging from a sepoy mutiny to a:
(A) minor and localized protest.
(B) purely economic rebellion.
(C) conflict between princely states.
(D) war of independence.

274. What was the most significant political impact of the Revolt of 1857 mentioned in the text?
(A) The transfer of governance from the Company to the British Crown.
(B) The restoration of power to traditional Indian rulers.
(C) The complete withdrawal of the British from India.
(D) The establishment of a new economic policy favoring Indian industries.

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275. The passage suggests that social and religious anxieties were caused by the fear that British policies were intended to:
(A) improve the Indian economy.
(B) give more power to the sepoys.
(C) undermine traditional Indian society.
(D) reduce land revenue assessments.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The administration of British India underwent a significant evolution, transitioning from the governance of a commercial entity, the East India Company, to direct rule by the Crown after 1858. During the Company's rule, the administrative structure evolved in an ad-hoc manner, primarily to serve its commercial and territorial interests. A centralized structure began to emerge through a series of charter and regulating acts, which progressively increased the British Parliament's oversight over the Company. This evolution saw the development of both a central authority, vested in the Governor-General and his Council, and distinct provincial structures in the presidencies of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. The central government's power over the provinces was gradually strengthened to ensure uniformity in policy and control over revenue and military affairs. Following the transfer of power to the Crown, this administrative framework was not dismantled but rather rationalized and strengthened. The Secretary of State for India and the India Council in London became the new apex of authority, but the pre-existing central and provincial structures in India were retained and further systematized to serve the objectives of direct imperial rule, ensuring a more organized and hierarchical system of governance than what had existed under the Company.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. According to the passage, how did the administrative structure evolve under the East India Company?
(A) It grew in an ad-hoc manner to serve commercial needs.
(B) It was pre-planned and established from the very beginning.
(C) It was systematically dismantled before 1858.
(D) It remained decentralized with no central authority.

277. What was the purpose of the charter and regulating acts passed during the Company's rule?
(A) To grant the Company complete autonomy from British oversight.
(B) To immediately transfer power to the British Crown.
(C) To dismantle the central government in India.
(D) To increase the British Parliament's control over the Company.

278. The passage states that the relationship between the central and provincial structures under the Company was characterized by:
(A) the complete independence of provincial governments.
(B) the gradual strengthening of central authority over provinces.
(C) the equal distribution of power between the center and provinces.
(D) the abolition of provincial structures in favor of a unitary state.

279. What was the major administrative change that occurred after 1858?
(A) The complete dismantling of the existing administrative framework.
(B) The decentralization of power back to provincial governments.
(C) The creation of a new apex of authority in London under the Crown.
(D) The re-establishment of the East India Company's authority.

280. How did the administration under the Crown relate to the preceding structure under the Company?
(A) It was an entirely new system with no connection to the past.
(B) It was a less organized and less hierarchical system.
(C) It reverted to a purely commercial model of governance.
(D) It retained and systemized the existing framework for imperial rule.

Direction : Please read the following source

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carefully.

The institutional pillars of the British administration in India under the East India Company were the Civil Service, Judiciary, Police, and the Army. These institutions were designed to consolidate and maintain British authority. The Civil Service, initially commercial in function, transformed into an administrative corps responsible for governance and revenue collection, becoming the 'steel frame' of the empire. The Judiciary evolved through the establishment of a dual system of courts, attempting to codify laws and establish a hierarchy of judicial authority, though often creating a complex and sometimes conflicting legal environment. The Police force was organized as a uniformed and hierarchical body, distinct from the military, with the primary objective of maintaining law and order and suppressing dissent, thus serving as a key instrument of state control. The Army, composed of both British soldiers and a much larger contingent of Indian sepoys, was the ultimate guarantor of British power, used for both external defense and internal security. After the transfer of power to the Crown, the concept of Paramountcy became the defining principle of the relationship with the Princely States. This doctrine asserted the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown, positioning it as the supreme and paramount power over all Indian rulers, who were relegated to a subordinate status within the imperial structure.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. Which institution is described as the 'steel frame' of the empire, responsible for administration and revenue collection?
(A) The Civil Service
(B) The Judiciary
(C) The Police
(D) The Army

282. According to the passage, the primary objective of the organized Police force under the Company was:
(A) to assist in judicial and legal codification.
(B) to maintain law and order and suppress dissent.
(C) to serve as a commercial transaction agency.
(D) to handle external defense and military campaigns.

283. The evolution of the Judiciary under the Company is characterized in the passage as:
(A) a simple and universally accepted system.
(B) the establishment of a dual and sometimes complex court system.
(C) a system completely separate from British judicial principles.
(D) a system that gave all authority to local Indian judges.

284. What was the role of the Army as described in the text?
(A) It was the ultimate guarantor of British power for defense and internal security.
(B) It was solely responsible for revenue collection.
(C) It was composed exclusively of British soldiers.
(D) It was primarily engaged in organizing the police force.

285. The doctrine of Paramountcy, as defined in the passage, established:
(A) the equality between the British Crown and the Princely States.
(B) the complete independence and sovereignty of Indian rulers.
(C) the supreme and ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown over Indian rulers.
(D) the transfer of judicial powers from the Company to the Princely States.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The introduction and development of local self-government in British India represented a significant, albeit limited, shift in administrative policy, particularly in the latter half of the 19th century. The primary impetus for this initiative was not a genuine desire to devolve power or prepare Indians for self-rule, but rather administrative and financial necessity. The central government sought to de-centralize the administration of certain local services, such as sanitation, public health, and primary education, to relieve the financial burden on the imperial exchequer. By creating local bodies like municipalities and district boards, the British administration could raise local taxes for local

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41. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Dutch in India primarily focused on commercial interests and maritime trade rather than extensive territorial expansion. In contrast, the British actively sought political control. While the Dutch faced competition from the British, it was the French who were decisively defeated by the British at the Battle of Wandiwash. The Dutch presence declined as they shifted their focus to the spice-rich Indonesian archipelago, where they found more profitable opportunities for their trading activities.

42. (A) Increasing parliamentary oversight and centralization of control
The administrative structure under the East India Company evolved through various legislative acts passed by the British Parliament. These laws, such as the Regulating Act and subsequent Charter Acts, gradually reduced the Company's autonomy and increased the control of the British government. This trend led to the centralization of power in the hands of the Governor-General, creating a more unified and regulated system of colonial governance that was ultimately accountable to London.

43. (D) Treaty of Seringapatam
The Third Anglo-Mysore War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792. This treaty was a major setback for Tipu Sultan, as it forced him to surrender half of his territory to the British and their allies. Additionally, he was required to pay a large war indemnity and hand over two of his sons as hostages. This event significantly weakened Mysore's power and cleared the way for final British dominance in the region.

44. (B) Jahangir
The British East India Company sought formal permission to trade in India during the early seventeenth century. Following diplomatic efforts, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir issued a farman allowing the British to establish a permanent factory at Surat. This official recognition was a crucial step in the Company's commercial expansion. It provided the legal basis for their early operations in the subcontinent, eventually leading to more extensive trading networks and political involvement in the future.

45. (B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Various British constitutional reforms introduced specific changes to the administration of India. The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 implemented separate electorates for Muslims. The 1919 reforms introduced Dyarchy in the provinces. The 1935 Act provided for Provincial Autonomy, granting greater power to local governments. Earlier, the Indian Councils Act of 1861 began the process of associating Indians with the law-making process, marking the early stages of representative institutions in the colonial system.

46. (D) Reserve senior administrative posts for Europeans
The Covenanted Civil Service was established by the East India Company to manage the upper levels of the administration. This elite service was designed to ensure that the most powerful and influential positions were held by European officials. By requiring members to sign a formal covenant, the British sought to maintain high standards of loyalty and discipline. This policy effectively excluded Indians from senior administrative roles for a significant period during the early colonial era.

47. (A) Subordinate union and patronage
After the 1857 Revolt, the British stopped annexing princely states and adopted a policy of subordinate union. They recognized the states as essential allies for maintaining stability. While the rulers were granted a degree of internal autonomy and the right to adopt heirs, they were required to accept the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown. This relationship allowed the British to maintain overall control while keeping the traditional elites satisfied and loyal to the regime.

48. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Although the Revolt of 1857 was a major challenge to British authority, it ultimately failed to end colonial rule. The uprising was limited geographically and lacked a unified leadership or a common national goal among the different groups involved. Many regions and powerful local rulers remained loyal to the British. This lack of coordination and a shared vision for the future made it easier for the British military to suppress the various centers of rebellion.

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an all-India federation (that never materialized) and granted significant provincial autonomy. Dyarchy was abolished at the provincial level, and responsible government was introduced, albeit with substantial 'safeguards' and overriding powers retained by the governors and the Viceroy, ensuring that ultimate power remained with the British.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. A major feature of the 1909 reforms mentioned in the passage was the:
(A) introduction of 'dyarchy' in the provinces.
(B) granting of complete provincial autonomy.
(C) introduction of separate electorates for Muslims.
(D) abolition of legislative councils.

292. What was the system of 'dyarchy' introduced by the 1919 reforms?
(A) The division of provincial subjects into 'transferred' and 'reserved' categories.
(B) A system where central and provincial governments had equal powers.
(C) A mechanism for granting full independence to the provinces.
(D) The complete transfer of all administrative subjects to Indian ministers.

293. According to the passage, under dyarchy, 'reserved' subjects such as finance were controlled by:
(A) ministers responsible to the legislative council.
(B) elected Indian representatives exclusively.
(C) an independent judicial body.
(D) the British governor.

294. How did the Government of India Act of 1935 change the system of governance in the provinces?
(A) It reintroduced dyarchy in the provinces and reduced autonomy.
(B) It abolished dyarchy at the provincial level and introduced responsible government.
(C) It abolished provincial legislatures and established direct rule.
(D) It gave provinces complete independence from the central government.

295. What was the overarching purpose of the 'safeguards' and overriding powers retained by the British in the 1935 Act?
(A) To ensure a smooth and diet transition to full Indian independence.
(B) To protect the rights of Indian ministers against the legislature.
(C) To ensure that ultimate power remained with the British authorities.
(D) To allow Indian politicians to gain experience in all areas of governance.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The evolution of constitutional reforms from 1909 to 1935 illustrates a consistent British strategy of calibrated response to growing nationalist pressure. The 1909 reforms, while expanding Indian participation in legislative councils, strategically introduced separate electorates, a move that addressed a specific communal demand but also had the long-term effect of politically dividing the nationalist movement. The 1919 Act, with its complex system of dyarchy, can be interpreted as an experiment in limited power-sharing. By transferring control over less critical departments like education and health, the British could claim to be advancing responsible government, while reserving core sectors like finance and police ensured that the fundamental levers of power remained securely in their hands. This bifurcation of authority was a deliberate design to test the waters of Indian self-governance without risking imperial interests. The 1935 Act represented the most extensive constitutional proposal, offering provincial autonomy and a blueprint for a federal structure. However, the inclusion of extensive discretionary powers for governors and the Viceroy, termed 'safeguards,' effectively created a constitutional framework where democratic functioning was contingent on British approval, thereby preserving paramountcy in a new, more sophisticated guise.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The passage suggests that the introduction of separate electorates in the 1909 reforms served a dual purpose of addressing a demand and:
(A) uniting the nationalist movement.
(B) accelerating the process of full

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governance met their standards and served imperial interests.

25. (C) Create a uniform legal code and court hierarchy
The East India Company's judicial reforms were designed to replace the varied traditional legal systems with a more structured and predictable administrative framework. This involved establishing a clear hierarchy of civil and criminal courts across the territories. The long-term goal was to introduce a uniform legal code based on Western principles, which would provide the legal stability necessary for commercial activities and the effective management of the colonial state.

26. (A) Introduce a system of separate electorates for Muslims to placate them
The Morley-Minto Reforms were introduced to address rising political unrest and demands for greater Indian participation in governance. A key and controversial feature of these reforms was the establishment of separate electorates for the Muslim community. This policy allowed Muslim voters to elect their own representatives to the legislative councils. While presented as a protective measure, it is often viewed as a strategy to divide the nationalist movement.

27. (A) 4, 3, 2, 1
The arrival of European powers in India followed a specific sequence, starting with the Portuguese in the late fifteenth century. The British East India Company arrived later, in the early seventeenth century. Once established as a trading force, the British became involved in military conflicts for political power. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked their first major political victory, followed by the Battle of Buxar in 1764, which solidified their control.

28. (B) Collect revenue and control civil justice
The term Diwani refers to a specific administrative authority granted to the East India Company after the Battle of Buxar. By securing the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, the British gained the official right to manage land revenue and oversee the administration of civil justice. This was a critical step in their transition from a commercial entity to a political power, as it provided a massive and steady source of income.

29. (C) Spanish
During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, several European nations competed for trade and influence in India. The Portuguese, Dutch, British, and French each established trading posts and sought to dominate maritime routes and local markets. However, the Spanish focused their colonial and commercial efforts primarily on the Americas and the Philippines. Consequently, Spain was not a major participant in the struggle for influence or territory within the Indian subcontinent.

30. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Different British administrators introduced policies that significantly shaped the colonial era. Lord Dalhousie is famously linked to the Doctrine of Lapse for annexation. Lord Wellesley expanded British influence through the Subsidiary Alliance system. Lord Ripon is recognized for promoting local self-government through his 1882 resolution. Lord Canning served as the first Viceroy and was responsible for announcing the Queen's Proclamation, which marked the transition from Company to Crown rule.

31. (A) Dyarchy in the provinces
The Government of India Act of 1919, also known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, introduced several constitutional changes. A major feature was the implementation of Dyarchy at the provincial level. This system divided administrative subjects into two categories: reserved subjects, managed by the Governor, and transferred subjects, managed by Indian ministers. This was an early attempt to introduce a limited form of responsible government, although the Governor still retained significant ultimate power.

32. (B) Political sovereignty over princely states
Paramountcy was a political doctrine used by the British to define their relationship with the various princely states in India. It asserted that the British Crown held supreme authority over all local rulers. This meant that the princely states were not fully independent; they were expected to follow British guidance in external affairs and sometimes internal matters. This concept ensured that the British remained the undisputed political masters of the entire subcontinent.

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ANSWERS

1. (B) Archival Materials
Archival materials consist of official records and documents produced by government administrations. These include reports, letters, and proceedings from various departments, providing a formal view of policy and governance. Such documents are crucial primary sources for historians researching the administrative history of modern India. They offer a systematic account of the decision-making processes and official actions taken by the ruling authorities during the colonial period.

2. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
Colonial newspapers are primary sources that document the political climate and public sentiments of the time. They provide insights into contemporary debates and the emergence of national consciousness. Conversely, biographies and memoirs are personal narratives reflecting the author's own perspective. Because these accounts are influenced by individual memory and personal biases, they are not purely objective. Historians must cross-verify such subjective sources with other evidence.

3. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different historical sources provide unique perspectives on the past. Archival materials like company proceedings offer official records of administration. Creative literature, such as historical novels, reflects the social and cultural environment. Monuments like the Victoria Memorial serve as physical evidence of historical eras and architectural styles. Oral evidence, including folk songs, captures the experiences and memories of common people, often providing details missing from official documentation.

4. (D) The Portuguese
The Portuguese were the pioneers of European maritime exploration to India, reaching the subcontinent at the end of the fifteenth century. By the early sixteenth century, they had successfully established various trading posts and fortified settlements along the western coast. Their early arrival allowed them to dominate the maritime spice trade and establish a naval presence long before the British, Dutch, or French reached the Indian shores.

5. (C) Strategic alliance with the Mughal central authority
The eventual triumph of the British over other European powers resulted from their superior naval technology, stable financial backing, and effective military strategies. While they interacted with local powers, they did not depend on a strategic alliance with the central Mughal authority for their success. Instead, the British capitalized on the political fragmentation and internal weaknesses of Indian states to consolidate their own territorial and political control.

6. (C) A is true but R is false.
The expansion of British dominion was a long, complex process that combined military victories with clever diplomatic maneuvers over several decades. Although the East India Company began as a commercial organization, it developed clear political and territorial ambitions relatively early. By the mid-eighteenth century, it was already deeply involved in Indian politics and administration, contradicting the idea that it remained a purely trading entity until the nineteenth century.

7. (D) Succession disputes among local rulers
The conflicts in the Carnatic region during the eighteenth century were primarily fueled by internal instability within local Indian kingdoms. Both the British and the French exploited succession disputes among local rulers to gain political leverage and commercial advantages. By supporting rival candidates for the throne, these European powers turned local power struggles into a broader theater for their own imperial competition and quest for regional supremacy.

8. (A) The British consistently respected all treaties signed with Indian princely states.
British expansion in India utilized diverse methods, including military campaigns and

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independence.
(C) abolishing the legislative councils.
(D) politically dividing the nationalist movement.

297. How does the text interpret the system of dyarchy introduced in 1919?
(A) As a form of limited power-sharing to test self-governance without risking core interests.
(B) As a complete surrender of British power in the provinces.
(C) As a failed experiment with no political significance.
(D) As a measure to increase British control over subjects like education and health.

298. According to the passage, why were subjects like finance and police kept as 'reserved' under dyarchy?
(A) Because Indian ministers showed no interest in these subjects.
(B) To ensure the fundamental levers of power remained with the British.
(C) To train British officials in Indian administrative practices.
(D) Because these sectors were financially unprofitable.

299. The 'safeguards' in the 1935 Act are described as a mechanism to:
(A) ensure that Indian ministers could exercise unlimited power.
(B) preserve ultimate British authority by making democratic functions contingent on their approval.
(C) make the Viceroy and governors accountable to the provincial legislature.
(D) protect the constitution from any amendments by Indian politicians.

300. What is the overarching theme that the passage identifies in the constitutional reforms from 1909 to 1935?
(A) A strategic, calibrated response to grant limited concessions while maintaining ultimate control.
(B) A consistent and rapid move towards unconditional Indian independence.
(C) A haphazard series of reforms with no underlying strategy.
(D) A continuous reduction of British power culminating in the 1935 Act.

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caused widespread unemployment and poverty among artisans, creating deep-seated resentment that contributed to the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857.

17. (B) The issue of the greased cartridges for the new Enfield rifle
While long-term grievances existed, the immediate spark for the 1857 Revolt was the introduction of the Enfield rifle. Rumors spread among the sepoys that the new cartridges were greased with animal fat, which offended both Hindu and Muslim religious sentiments. The requirement to bite off the ends of these cartridges was seen as a deliberate attempt to defile their faith, leading to widespread mutiny across the army.

18. (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
The Revolt of 1857 is often analyzed as a major challenge to colonial rule, with some historians describing it as a war for independence. It involved diverse social groups, including soldiers, peasants, and displaced rulers. However, the movement lacked a single, unified national vision or a clear plan for a future independent India. The participants often fought for localized grievances or traditional interests rather than a modern concept of nationhood.

19. (C) Administrative transfer from Company to the Crown
The Revolt of 1857 led to a fundamental change in how India was governed. The British Parliament decided that the East India Company could no longer manage such a large and complex territory. Consequently, the Government of India Act of 1858 was passed, which transferred administrative authority directly to the British Crown. This marked the end of Company rule and the beginning of the British Raj era.

20. (D) Diverse political, economic, and religious grievances
The Revolt of 1857 was a complex event driven by a multitude of factors rather than a single cause. It was not just a military mutiny; it included civilian uprisings fueled by economic hardship, the loss of political power by traditional elites, and fears of religious conversion. These varied grievances converged to create a massive challenge to British authority, although the revolt remained regionally concentrated and lacked coordination.

21. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The British government gradually increased its oversight of the East India Company through various legislative acts. The 1773 Regulating Act initiated this process, followed by Pitt's India Act of 1784, which established a Board of Control. Regular Charter Acts were passed to renew the Company's privileges every twenty years. These measures demonstrate that the Company's administration was never completely independent and was subject to increasing parliamentary regulation and control.

22. (B) A claim of supreme British power over all native Indian rulers
The concept of Paramountcy was a political doctrine where the British asserted their status as the supreme authority in India. This claim meant that the power of the British government was superior to that of all Indian princely states. Under this system, the British assumed the right to intervene in the internal affairs of these states and control their external relations, effectively reducing the local rulers to a subordinate position.

23. (D) Efficient administration of vast Indian territories
The British developed a professional Civil Service in India to create a stable and reliable administrative framework for their expanding empire. The primary goal was to ensure the efficient collection of revenue and the maintenance of law and order across diverse regions. By training a specialized group of officials, the Company aimed to consolidate its political control and manage the complexities of governing a large, populous subcontinent under colonial rule.

24. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only
After the 1857 Revolt, British policy toward princely states shifted toward cooperation and stability. The official policy of annexation was abandoned, and the territorial integrity of the states was guaranteed. The right of rulers to adopt heirs was also recognized to prevent further unrest. However, the British maintained the doctrine of paramountcy, asserting their right to intervene in internal administration to ensure

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needs, thus making these services financially self-sustaining. While proponents framed it as a measure of political education for Indians, its scope was severely restricted. The powers of these local bodies were limited, their financial resources were meager, and they operated under the strict supervision of British district officials. The franchise was highly restricted, ensuring that these bodies were dominated by a small, propertied elite. Despite these limitations, the system of local self-government did provide a new, albeit constrained, arena for Indians to gain experience in modern administrative and political processes, inadvertently becoming a training ground for future nationalist leaders.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the passage, what was the primary driver for the introduction of local self-government in British India?
(A) A genuine commitment to democratic principles and Indian self-rule.
(B) Pressure from nationalist movements demanding immediate independence.
(C) A desire to transfer all central government functions to local bodies.
(D) Administrative and financial compulsions to decentralize certain services.

287. The passage states that the British administration created local bodies mainly to:
(A) provide advanced political training for all citizens.
(B) give complete autonomy to district officials.
(C) raise local taxes for local services to relieve the imperial budget.
(D) dismantle the central government's authority entirely.

288. Which of the following is mentioned as a significant limitation of the local self-government system?
(A) The bodies had unlimited financial resources.
(B) The franchise was highly restricted, limiting participation.
(C) They operated without any supervision from British officials.
(D) They were responsible for national defense and foreign policy.

289. The author suggests that an inadvertent outcome of local self-government was that it:
(A) immediately led to the financial ruin of the British administration.
(B) completely satisfied the political aspirations of the Indian populace.
(C) proved that Indians were incapable of administrative work.
(D) served as a training ground for future nationalist leaders.

290. How is the official British justification for local self-government (as a 'political education') contrasted with its actual purpose in the passage?
(A) The passage presents the 'political education' claim as a front for financial and administrative motives.
(B) The passage argues both the justification and the purpose were to grant independence.
(C) The passage states that political education was the sole and successful goal.
(D) The passage indicates the system failed completely, providing neither education nor financial relief.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The period between 1909 and 1935 was marked by significant constitutional changes in British India, reflecting a dual policy of granting limited concessions while maintaining ultimate imperial control. The reforms of 1909, known for introducing separate electorates for Muslims, were a key development. While they expanded the legislative councils and increased the number of elected Indian members, the councils remained purely advisory with no real control over the executive. The next major step, the reforms of 1919, introduced the system of 'dyarchy' in the provinces. This divided provincial subjects into 'transferred' and 'reserved' categories. Transferred subjects, such as education and health, were administered by ministers responsible to the legislative council, whereas reserved subjects, like finance and law and order, remained under the firm control of the governor. This system was designed to introduce a degree of responsible government without surrendering British authority over critical areas. The culmination of this process was the Government of India Act of 1935, which proposed

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33. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Biographies and memoirs are important historical sources because they offer personal accounts of events and individuals. However, they are inherently subjective since authors often write from their own perspective, sometimes seeking to justify their actions or minimize failures. Memory limitations can also affect the accuracy of these narratives. Therefore, while they provide deep insights, historians must carefully evaluate them against other contemporary records to ensure a balanced and factual understanding.

34. (A) Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan
The Anglo-Mysore Wars consisted of a series of four major military conflicts during the late eighteenth century. These wars were fought between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Mysore, which was led by Hyder Ali and later his son, Tipu Sultan. The British viewed Mysore as a significant threat due to its military strength and its close relationship with the French, leading to persistent hostility until Mysore was defeated.

35. (C) An interview with a freedom fighter about their experiences
Oral evidence as a historical source involves gathering information through spoken accounts and personal testimonies. Interviews with individuals who lived through significant events, such as freedom fighters, provide first-hand perspectives that might not be captured in official government documents. This type of evidence is valuable for understanding the personal motivations, emotions, and local details of historical movements, offering a more humanized view of the past compared to purely administrative records.

36. (B) 1, 2 and 4 only
The British established a professional police force in India that was modeled after their own domestic system. The primary purpose was to maintain internal security, prevent crime, and uphold the law. However, this system was primarily designed to protect colonial interests and ensure the stability of British rule. It often became a tool for the administration to monitor and suppress political dissent and various nationalist activities that challenged their authority in India.

37. (C) An All-India Federation
The Government of India Act of 1935 proposed a significant restructuring of the colonial administration. One of its main features was the plan to establish an All-India Federation. This federation was intended to include both the provinces of British India and the various princely states. Although the federation never fully materialized due to disagreements among the stakeholders, the Act represented a major step in the constitutional evolution of the country during that period.

38. (B) Alleged misgovernance by the Nawab
The annexation of Oudh in 1856 was a controversial move by the British under Lord Dalhousie. Unlike other states annexed through the Doctrine of Lapse, Oudh was taken over based on the specific allegation that the Nawab was failing to govern the state effectively. The British claimed the intervention was necessary to protect the people from chronic misrule. This action caused significant anger and became a major political grievance contributing to the 1857 Revolt.

39. (B) 2, 3, and 4 only
The Revolt of 1857 was caused by a combination of political, economic, and social factors. The aggressive annexation of Indian states created deep resentment among traditional rulers. Economic policies led to the decline of local industries and the impoverishment of many peasants and artisans. Additionally, social and religious reforms introduced by the British were often perceived by the public as an unwelcome interference in their long-standing customs and religious traditions.

40. (A) The social, cultural, and emotional climate of an era
Creative literature and paintings are valuable historical sources because they capture the spirit and atmosphere of a particular time. Unlike official reports that focus on administration, these sources reflect the popular imagination, social tensions, and cultural values of the people. They provide insights into the emotional and psychological state of society, helping historians understand how different groups perceived the changes occurring around them during the modern period of Indian history.

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administrative policies like the Subsidiary Alliance and the Doctrine of Lapse. While many treaties were signed with local rulers, the British frequently violated or reinterpreted these agreements to suit their political interests. This lack of consistency regarding treaty obligations was a major factor in the gradual erosion of the independence of various Indian princely states.

9. (B) 2 and 4 only
Paintings from the modern period offer visual insights into the social hierarchy, traditional customs, and daily lives of the people. Similarly, coins serve as significant historical evidence for understanding the economic health, trade relations, and territorial extent of various rulers. While biographies provide personal narratives, they are not inherently more reliable than archival records. Oral evidence is also recognized as a valid source for capturing perspectives.

10. (A) The Portuguese
Although the Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish a maritime trade route to India, their territorial influence remained limited over time. By the end of the eighteenth century, as the British and French expanded their reach, the Portuguese presence was primarily confined to specific coastal enclaves. These areas, including Goa, Daman, and Diu, were maintained as colonial outposts until their eventual integration into independent India.

11. (D) The Battle of Plassey
Tensions between Siraj-ud-Daulah and the British East India Company arose from disputes over trade privileges and the fortification of Calcutta. These conflicts culminated in the Battle of Plassey in 1757, where the Company achieved a decisive victory through military force and internal conspiracies. This event is considered a major turning point, as it effectively laid the foundation for British political and territorial rule.

12. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
European traders arrived in India with diverse backgrounds and motivations. The Portuguese were the first to arrive and the last to depart. The Dutch prioritized the Indonesian spice trade, making India a secondary focus. The French Company was state-controlled, while the British began as a private enterprise. Although these powers initially focused on trade and commerce, their goals were not purely political conquest at the outset.

13. (C) Company revenue rights and Nawab administrative rights
The Dual System of administration was introduced in Bengal to manage the region after the British secured military dominance. Under this arrangement, the East India Company held the Diwani rights, giving them control over revenue collection and civil justice. Meanwhile, the Nawab retained the Nizamat functions, which involved general administration and criminal justice. This system allowed the British to enjoy power and wealth without formal responsibility.

14. (D) To control the lucrative spice trade and spread Christianity
During the sixteenth century, the Portuguese were driven by both commercial and religious motivations in the Indian subcontinent. They sought to establish a monopoly over the profitable spice trade by controlling strategic maritime routes. Simultaneously, they aimed to promote and spread Christianity in the region. Their strategy focused on building fortified coastal settlements and utilizing their superior naval power to dominate the trade in the Indian Ocean.

15. (B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
The British used distinct strategies to bring different Indian states under their control. In Bengal, the victory at the Battle of Plassey was the decisive factor. Mysore was eventually conquered after intense resistance led by Tipu Sultan. Punjab was annexed following political instability after the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Oudh was integrated into British territory under the specific pretext of administrative misgovernance by its local ruler.

16. (B) The ruin of traditional handicrafts and industries
The economic policies of the British East India Company significantly altered India's traditional industrial structure. The influx of cheap, machine-made British textiles and the imposition of heavy duties on Indian exports led to the decline of local handicrafts and weaving industries. This process of de-industrialization

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49. (B) It gave the British Diwani rights and made them the virtual rulers of Bengal.
The Battle of Buxar in 1764 was a decisive military victory for the British East India Company against the combined forces of the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Oudh, and the Mughal Emperor. Following the victory, the Treaty of Allahabad granted the British the Diwani rights, allowing them to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. This transformed the Company into a major political power with a massive and stable source of income.

50. (A) Dutch - Mysore
Various European powers established strategic settlements along the Indian coast to facilitate their trade. The Portuguese held Goa, the French established their headquarters at Pondicherry, and the British built a major base at Calcutta. While the Dutch were active in India, they were primarily located in places like Pulicat and Negapatam. Mysore was an independent Indian kingdom and was never a major settlement or administrative center for the Dutch during their time in the subcontinent.

51. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
Before 1857, the British army in India relied heavily on Indian sepoys, who far outnumbered European soldiers. These sepoys were essential for expanding British territory and maintaining internal order. However, they faced significant discrimination, including being denied promotions to higher ranks and receiving lower pay than their British counterparts. This structural inequality and lack of professional growth opportunities for Indian soldiers were major factors that contributed to the growing discontent within the military ranks.

52. (D) Lord Ripon
Lord Ripon is remembered for his efforts to introduce local self-government in India during the 1880s. His resolution aimed to establish local boards and municipalities with elected members. The primary goal was to provide a means of political and popular education for Indians and to decentralize administration. By encouraging local participation in managing affairs like health and education, Ripon hoped to create a more responsive and efficient system of governance at the grassroots level.

53. (C) Reconstructing political and economic history
Coins are vital primary sources for historians because they provide concrete evidence about the past. They can help determine the dates of a ruler's reign, the extent of their kingdom, and the titles they held. Furthermore, the metal content and quantity of coins offer insights into the economic prosperity, trade connections, and inflationary trends of a period. Analyzing coinage allows for a more accurate reconstruction of the political and economic landscape of modern Indian history.

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54. (A) 1, 2 and 4 only
The French presence in India was characterized by strong state control over their trading company. Leaders like Dupleix successfully used diplomacy and military intervention in local politics to expand their influence. However, the French failed to establish a lasting empire because of their decisive defeat at the Battle of Wandiwash. Their main headquarters was at Pondicherry, not Calcutta. This defeat severely restricted their ambitions, leaving the British as the dominant European power in the Indian subcontinent.

55. (D) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
The Government of India Act of 1919 is commonly referred to as the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, named after the Secretary of State and the Viceroy of the time. This Act introduced significant changes to the colonial administration, including the system of Dyarchy in the provinces. These reforms were intended to fulfill the British promise of gradual development of self-governing institutions in India, although the nationalists felt they did not go far enough toward achieving actual self-rule.

56. (A) The British East India Company
In the context of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Indian history, the term "Company" almost exclusively refers to the British East India Company. This organization began as a commercial venture but gradually transformed into a powerful political and military entity that ruled vast portions of the Indian subcontinent. Its administration shaped the modern history of India until the government was formally transferred to the British Crown following

1760 was the pivotal event where the British forces decisively defeated the French. This victory effectively ended French ambitions of establishing a territorial empire in the Indian subcontinent. After this defeat, the French were restricted to a few small coastal settlements and were no longer a significant political or military threat to the expanding power of the British East India Company.

116. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
Oral evidence, such as folk songs and personal testimonies, is a valuable historical source because it captures the perspectives and experiences of common people whose lives are often excluded from official records. These accounts provide a bottom-up view of history. However, oral evidence is not always factually precise. Like any source, it can be influenced by memory lapses, personal biases, or the use of poetic exaggeration. Therefore, historians must cross-verify oral accounts with other types of evidence to ensure a balanced historical reconstruction.

117. (B) Disproportional representation for the nominees of the Princes.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was heavily criticized by the Indian National Congress and other nationalist groups for several reasons. A major point of contention was the proposed All-India Federation, which gave significant and disproportional weight to the princely states. The nominees of the princes, rather than elected representatives, were to hold a large number of seats in the federal legislature. This was seen as a move to counter the influence of the nationalist movement and maintain a conservative, pro-British element within the government.

118. (D) The British adopted a more cautious approach and sought to align with traditional Indian elites like princes and landlords.
The Revolt of 1857 forced a significant reassessment of British policy in India. Realizing that aggressive expansion and rapid social reforms had alienated many sections of society, the British adopted a more conservative and cautious approach. They sought to stabilize their rule by forming alliances with traditional elites, such as the princely rulers and large landlords. This shift involved stopping annexations and respecting the social and religious customs of the people, aiming to create a stable base of support for the colonial administration.

119. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
Several factors combined to ensure the success of the British in India. Their superior military and naval technology provided a clear advantage on the battlefield. They were also able to exploit the internal disunity and constant rivalries among various Indian powers. Diplomatic strategies like the Subsidiary Alliance further expanded their influence. Additionally, the Company had the stable financial and political backing of the British government. Despite these advantages, they faced significant and persistent resistance from many Indian states throughout their expansion.

120. (C) Creation of a centralized system under the Governor-General.
The administrative history of the East India Company was marked by a clear trend toward centralization. Initially, the three Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras operated with considerable autonomy. However, as the Company's territories and political responsibilities grew, the British Parliament passed a series of legislative acts to create a more unified structure. This process culminated in making the Governor-General of Bengal the supreme authority over all British territories in India, ensuring a more coordinated and effective colonial administration from a single center.

121. (A) Consolidate its rule and maintain law and order that served its interests.
The establishment of a professional police force was a key part of the British administrative framework in India. The primary objective was to create a reliable and disciplined body capable of maintaining internal security and enforcing the law across the vast territories. This force was essential for consolidating British authority and protecting the commercial and political interests of the colonial state. While it addressed crime, its main function was to ensure the stability and endurance of the colonial administration against internal challenges.

122. (D) Pitt's India Act of 1784
To address the problems in the administration of the East India Company, the British Parliament

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middle of the eighteenth century. These wars were primarily a struggle for commercial and political supremacy between the British and French trading companies. The conflicts often involved local Indian rulers who sought support from either the British or the French in their own internal power struggles. The eventual British victory in these wars established them as the dominant European power in India.

65. (B) They represented a gradual and limited transfer of power from British to Indian hands.
The series of constitutional reforms passed by the British Parliament between 1909 and 1935 marked a slow evolution in the governance of India. These acts gradually increased the number of Indians in legislative councils and introduced concepts like separate electorates and provincial autonomy. While these changes were intended to manage nationalist pressure and maintain British control, they also provided a structured framework that allowed for a limited but increasing degree of Indian participation in the administration.

66. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The establishment of British dominion was not a single campaign but a gradual process. The Battle of Plassey was won through political intrigue, and the Treaty of Allahabad gave the British revenue control in Bengal. The Subsidiary Alliance was another key strategy used to bring Indian states under British influence. This expansion occurred over many decades through various methods, rather than being a single, unified, and perfectly planned event that covered the entire country at once.

67. (C) Archival materials like government proceedings
To understand the official British viewpoint on administrative matters, archival materials are the most valuable source. These records, which include government proceedings, official correspondence, and formal reports, document the internal discussions and justifications behind specific policies. Because they were produced for administrative use, they reflect the priorities and perspectives of the ruling authorities. Other sources like folk songs or nationalist newspapers provide different viewpoints but do not capture the formal rationale of the government.

68. (D) Maharaja Ranjit Singh
Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the powerful leader who unified the various Sikh confederacies and established a strong, independent kingdom in Punjab. Throughout his reign, he successfully modernized his army and maintained a strategic balance of power, which effectively resisted British expansion into his territories. His leadership ensured that Punjab remained a formidable and independent state. It was only after his death and the subsequent period of political instability that the British were able to annex the region.

69. (A) 1, 2, and 5 only
The transfer of power to the British Crown in 1858 brought several administrative changes. The Secretary of State for India was appointed to oversee Indian affairs from London, and the Governor-General was given the title of Viceroy. To prevent another uprising, the British halted territorial annexations and reorganized the army to increase the number of European soldiers. The East India Company's administrative and commercial roles were entirely terminated as the British government assumed direct responsibility for India.

70. (B) A division of provincial subjects into 'Reserved' and 'Transferred' categories
Dyarchy was a system of dual government introduced at the provincial level by the 1919 reforms. It divided administrative responsibilities into two separate groups. 'Reserved' subjects, such as law and order and finance, remained under the direct control of the Governor and his executive council. 'Transferred' subjects, like education and public health, were managed by Indian ministers responsible to the local legislature. This system was designed to introduce a limited form of representative government while maintaining British control.

71. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The British established the Covenanted Civil Service as an elite administrative body, initially reserving all high-ranking positions for Europeans to ensure their control over the state. Members were required to sign formal agreements, or covenants, with the Company. While competitive examinations for entry were eventually introduced, they were held exclusively in London for many years. This requirement made

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This move by Lord Dalhousie caused widespread resentment not only among the ruling elite of Oudh but also among the common people and the sepoys, many of whom were recruited from this region. The perceived injustice of the annexation fueled the anger that eventually erupted into a widespread uprising against British colonial rule.

87. (D) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
The Morley-Minto Reforms, formalized in the Indian Councils Act of 1909, introduced a significant and controversial change to the electoral system in British India. For the first time, the principle of separate electorates was established, specifically for the Muslim community. This meant that Muslim representatives would be elected by a separate Muslim electorate. While intended to provide representation for a minority, this policy had long-term political consequences, as it institutionalized communal divisions in the colonial political structure.

88. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
The Revolt of 1857 brought about fundamental changes in British policy toward India. The rule of the East India Company was ended, and the British government assumed direct control. To prevent future unrest, the British officially abandoned the policy of annexing princely states and promised non-interference in religious and social matters. Additionally, the Indian army was reorganized with a higher proportion of European soldiers and the implementation of policies designed to prevent unity among different community regiments.

89. (C) A period of political instability followed by two Anglo-Sikh wars and annexation
Following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the kingdom of Punjab entered a period of intense political instability and succession disputes. The British exploited this situation, leading to two major Anglo-Sikh wars. Despite the strong resistance from the Sikh army, the British eventually emerged victorious. In 1849, the British finalized the annexation of Punjab into their empire. This marked the end of the last major independent Indian power and the completion of British expansion in Northern India.

90. (A) The administration is carried out in accordance with the law, binding both the ruled and the rulers.
The concept of the 'Rule of Law' was a key principle introduced by the British into the Indian judicial system. It established that the government must act within a framework of clearly defined laws rather than the arbitrary whims of individuals. This meant that, in theory, the law applied equally to everyone, including government officials. This principle was intended to provide a sense of predictability and fairness in administration, which was essential for a modern colonial state and its commercial operations.

91. (D) The Chola Kingdom
During their expansion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the British interacted with various powerful Indian states that had emerged following the decline of the Mughal Empire. These included Bengal, Mysore, and Oudh, all of which were key theaters of British political and military activity. In contrast, the Chola Kingdom was a medieval South Indian power that had flourished centuries before the arrival of Europeans in India and was not a participant in the politics of this period.

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92. (A) 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
Primary sources for modern Indian history are records created during the time under study. These include official government publications like gazettes, personal accounts like biographies of contemporary officials, and physical evidence such as historical ruins. Oral traditions like folk tales also provide first-hand perspectives from the common people. While historical films can be informative, they are later creative interpretations of the past and are generally not considered primary sources in the same way as contemporary documents or artifacts.

93. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a significant constitutional development. It proposed the establishment of a Federal Court to resolve disputes and interpret the law. Additionally, the Act brought about important changes in the distribution of power by abolishing the system of Dyarchy in the provinces and introducing it at the central level. These measures were part of a broader attempt to restructure

Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on local self-government was a landmark reform in the history of Indian administration. Its primary goal was not just administrative efficiency, but the political training of Indians. Ripon believed that by allowing Indians to manage their own local affairs through elected boards and municipalities, they would gain experience in the principles of governance. This reform was intended to foster a sense of civic responsibility and prepare the people for greater participation in the administration.

80. (B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
European powers experienced different fates in India due to various factors. The Portuguese declined because of religious intolerance and the loss of their naval monopoly. The Dutch shifted their focus to the profitable spice trade in Indonesia. The French were limited by heavy state control and decisive military defeats like Wandiwash. In contrast, the British successfully managed their resources and political alliances to establish a vast dominion, eventually becoming the paramount power across the entire Indian subcontinent.

81. (B) A personal account of events written by a participant years later
A memoir is a type of historical source that consists of a personal narrative written by an individual about their own life and experiences. These accounts often provide first-hand perspectives on significant events, offering insights into the author's thoughts and motivations. While memoirs are valuable for their human detail and personal reflections, historians treat them with caution because they are inherently subjective and may be influenced by the author's desire to justify their past actions or personal biases.

82. (A) A combination of wars, subsidiary alliances, and annexations
The expansion of British dominion in India was a complex and multifaceted process that occurred over more than a century. The British East India Company utilized a variety of methods to increase its territory and influence. These included direct military conquests in major wars, diplomatic strategies like the Subsidiary Alliance system to bring states under their influence, and administrative policies like the Doctrine of Lapse to annex kingdoms. This combination of force and diplomacy ensured their eventual political supremacy.

83. (C) Protect the commercial and political interests of the British
The British established a professional police system in India primarily to consolidate their rule and maintain internal stability. The main priority of this force was to ensure the protection of British commercial activities and to suppress any political opposition or unrest that could threaten their control. By creating a centralized and disciplined police organization, the colonial administration could effectively monitor the population and uphold the laws that were designed to serve the interests of the British Empire.

84. (C) A is true but R is false.
The Government of India Act of 1919 did introduce the system of Dyarchy in the provinces, dividing administrative subjects between Indian ministers and the British Governor. However, this system was far from a complete success. It was plagued by logical inconsistencies in the division of subjects and a lack of financial control for the Indian ministers. Rather than leading to a smooth transfer of power, it often resulted in friction and failed to satisfy the demands for self-government.

85. (C) The British Company was a private enterprise with more autonomy, while the French Company was a state department.
A fundamental difference between the British and French East India Companies lay in their organizational structure and relationship with their home governments. The British Company was a private commercial venture that enjoyed a significant degree of independence in its decision-making. In contrast, the French Company was a state-sponsored organization that was heavily controlled and financed by the French government. This state-controlled nature often made the French Company less flexible and more vulnerable to political changes in Europe.

86. (B) Oudh
The annexation of Oudh in 1856 on the specific grounds of alleged misgovernance was a major political factor contributing to the Revolt of 1857.

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it extremely difficult for Indians to participate, and simultaneous examinations in India were only introduced much later.

72. (A) The establishment of British political supremacy in Southern India
The rivalry between the British and French in the Carnatic region was a crucial phase in the struggle for European dominance in India. Through a series of military conflicts and diplomatic maneuvers, the British East India Company eventually defeated the French and their local allies. This victory removed their main European competitor from the political landscape of Southern India. It provided the British with a firm base from which to further expand their influence throughout the entire subcontinent.

73. (C) The acceptance of the Subsidiary Alliance system
The state of Hyderabad was brought under British influence primarily through diplomacy rather than direct warfare. The Nizam of Hyderabad was the first major Indian ruler to sign a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance with the British under Lord Wellesley. By accepting this arrangement, the Nizam agreed to maintain a British military force at his own expense and follow British guidance in external affairs. This strategy allowed the British to secure a powerful ally and expand their control peacefully.

74. (A) Whether it was a mutiny, a national war, or a series of local uprisings
When studying the 'nature' of the Revolt of 1857, historians analyze the fundamental character and goals of the movement. This involves debating whether the event should be categorized as a simple military mutiny, a broader peasant rebellion, or the first organized attempt at a national war for independence. Understanding the nature of the revolt requires examining the motivations of various participants and the extent to which their diverse grievances were unified against British colonial rule.

75. (D) It provided a framework that heavily influenced the Constitution of independent India.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a comprehensive piece of legislation that introduced several key administrative features. It proposed a federal structure, established provincial autonomy, and created a hierarchy of courts, including a Federal Court. Because of its detailed and structured approach to governance, many of its provisions and institutional frameworks were later adopted or adapted by the framers of the Constitution of independent India, making it a pivotal document in the country's legal history.

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76. (B) The promotion of the Zamindari system
Discontent leading to the 1857 Revolt was fueled by various social and religious factors. British reforms like the abolition of Sati and the legalization of Hindu widow remarriage were often seen by traditionalists as an interference in long-standing religious customs. The introduction of modern technologies like the railway and telegraph also caused suspicion among many sections of society. However, the promotion of the Zamindari system was primarily an economic and land revenue policy rather than a socio-religious reform.

77. (C) The British Monarch and Parliament
In the context of British Indian history, the term "Crown" signifies the direct authority of the British government over India. Following the Revolt of 1857, the rule of the East India Company was abolished, and the administration was transferred to the British Monarch and Parliament. This shift meant that India was no longer managed by a private trading company but was governed as a formal part of the British Empire, with ultimate accountability lying with the authorities in London.

78. (D) Regulating Act, 1773
The evolution of a centralized administrative structure for British India began with the Regulating Act of 1773. This was the first significant attempt by the British Parliament to intervene in and regulate the affairs of the East India Company. The Act established the office of the Governor-General of Bengal and created a council to assist him. It also made the other Presidencies of Bombay and Madras subordinate to Bengal, laying the foundation for a unified colonial government in India.

79. (A) Aimed to use local bodies for political and popular education.

the colonial administration and provide a more formal framework for the governance of India.

94. (D) The political disunity and internal conflicts among Indian states
The rise of British power in India was greatly facilitated by the fragmented political landscape of the eighteenth century. Following the decline of the central Mughal authority, many independent and semi-independent states emerged, often competing with each other for territory and influence. The British successfully exploited these internal conflicts and rivalries by playing one power against another. This political disunity made it much easier for the British East India Company to gradually expand its control through military force and diplomatic strategy.

95. (A) They primarily reflect the perspective of the ruling power or administration.
While archival materials are essential for historical research, they have specific limitations. These records were produced by the government for administrative purposes, which means they naturally reflect the viewpoints, priorities, and biases of the ruling authorities. They often provide a formal and top-down view of events, sometimes ignoring or misrepresenting the experiences and perspectives of the common people. Therefore, historians must cross-examine archival data with other types of evidence to build a more comprehensive and balanced historical narrative.

96. (A) 4, 2, 1, 3
British administrative and political policies were introduced at different times as their influence grew. The Dual Government in Bengal was established in the mid-eighteenth century following their early victories. Later, the Subsidiary Alliance system was aggressively used to bring states under British control. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Doctrine of Lapse was applied for territorial annexation. Finally, constitutional reforms in the twentieth century, like the introduction of Dyarchy, represented later attempts to manage the rising demands of the nationalist movement.

97. (B) The responsibility for civil and criminal administration
Under the Dual Government system in Bengal, administrative responsibilities were divided between the East India Company and the Nawab. The term 'Nizamat' referred to the functions of the Nawab, which included maintaining law and order and the administration of justice. While the Nawab nominally held this authority, he lacked the financial resources to carry it out effectively. The Company held the real power through its control over revenue collection, leaving the Nawab with responsibility but very little actual control.

98. (A) The Spice Islands of Indonesia
The Dutch East India Company was a major commercial power in Asia, but its primary interests lay outside the Indian subcontinent. While they established several trading posts in India, their main focus was the highly profitable spice trade in the Indonesian archipelago, then known as the Spice Islands. Over time, the Dutch prioritized their control over these eastern territories and gradually reduced their presence in India as they faced increasing competition and military pressure from the British East India Company.

99. (C) Creation of the post of Secretary of State for India in London
A fundamental administrative change following the 1858 transfer of power was the creation of the post of Secretary of State for India. This official was a member of the British Cabinet and was responsible for overseeing all matters related to the governance of India from London. This change ensured that the Indian administration was directly accountable to the British Parliament. The Secretary of State was assisted by a council, replacing the previous system of control by the East India Company's directors.

100. (D) Introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 were a significant step in the constitutional history of British India. The most impactful and controversial feature was the introduction of separate electorates for the Muslim community. This policy allowed Muslim voters to elect their own representatives to the legislative councils. While the reforms also increased the size of the councils and allowed for more Indian participation, the establishment of communal

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electorates had a lasting effect on the political and social fabric of the country.

101. (C) Indian Civil Service
The Indian Civil Service was often described as the 'steel frame' of the British administration because it was the core organization responsible for governing the country. Its members held the most important administrative and judicial positions at both the central and provincial levels. They were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting revenue, and implementing government policies. This highly organized and professional service provided the stability and administrative continuity that were essential for the endurance of British colonial rule in India.

102. (B) Were treated as vassals with the British Crown as the ultimate sovereign power.
Under the policy of Paramountcy, the British Crown asserted its status as the supreme authority over all Indian princely states. Although these states were not formally annexed into British India, they were not truly independent. The rulers were recognized as subordinate allies who had to accept British suzerainty. This meant they were expected to follow British advice and were prohibited from forming independent foreign alliances. This relationship ensured that the British maintained overall political dominance while utilizing the traditional rulers to ensure stability.

103. (D) Reduce the financial and administrative burden on the central government.
While the introduction of local self-government in the late nineteenth century was presented as a reform to educate Indians in governance, it also served a practical purpose for the British. The expanding colonial administration faced increasing financial and administrative pressures. By establishing local boards and municipalities, the government hoped to shift some of the responsibility for local services, such as health and sanitation, to these bodies. This decentralization allowed the central government to reduce its own workload and financial commitments at the local level.

104. (A) A historical novel
Archival materials consist of official documents and records that are created by an organization or government during the course of its activities. Examples include official correspondence, judicial records, and government orders, which provide direct evidence of administrative decisions and policies. In contrast, a historical novel is a work of creative fiction. While it may be set in the past and reflect the social atmosphere of a period, it is not an official record and is not considered a form of archival material.

105. (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The Revolt of 1857 saw prominent leaders rising in different regions to challenge British authority. Kunwar Singh led the rebellion in Arrah, Bihar, while Begum Hazrat Mahal took charge in Lucknow, Oudh. Nana Saheb was the key leader in Kanpur, and Rani Lakshmibai famously fought against the British in Jhansi. Each of these individuals represented local grievances and provided leadership to the diverse groups of soldiers and civilians who participated in the uprising within their respective regions.

106. (A) Superior naval power and control of sea routes
The Portuguese were able to establish themselves as a major power in India during the sixteenth century primarily because of their advanced maritime capabilities. Their superior ships and naval weaponry allowed them to dominate the Indian Ocean and control key sea routes used for the spice trade. By capturing strategic coastal locations and using their naval strength to enforce a monopoly, the Portuguese established a maritime empire that functioned long before other European powers or local rulers could challenge their naval supremacy.

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107. (D) The mid-18th century to the mid-19th century
The establishment and expansion of British dominion in India was a gradual process that spanned approximately a hundred years. It began in the mid-eighteenth century with major victories in Bengal and continued through a series of wars, treaties, and administrative policies across the subcontinent. By the mid-nineteenth century, the British had successfully brought most of India under their direct or indirect control. This period represents the transition of the East India Company from a commercial entity to the paramount political power in India.

108. (B) The annexation of their states under the Doctrine of Lapse
The Doctrine of Lapse was an aggressive annexation policy introduced by Lord Dalhousie. It allowed the British to take control of any princely state where the ruler died without a natural male heir. This policy was applied to several states, including Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi, causing deep resentment among the ruling families who were denied their traditional right to adopt an heir. This political grievance was a primary reason why many traditional rulers joined the Revolt of 1857 against the British.

109. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Following the 1857 Revolt, the British implemented major changes in the organization of the army to ensure future loyalty. They realized that depending too heavily on Indian sepoys was a significant risk to their authority. Consequently, they increased the proportion of European soldiers and ensured that key positions and artillery units were exclusively managed by them. This reorganization was designed to prevent another unified uprising and to maintain a firm and reliable military grip on their Indian territories during the subsequent period of rule.

110. (A) The Government of India Act of 1858
The Government of India Act of 1858 was passed by the British Parliament in response to the massive uprising of the previous year. This landmark legislation formally ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred the administration of India directly to the British Crown. It established a new structure for governance, including the appointment of a Secretary of State for India and the designation of the Governor-General as the Viceroy. This act marked the beginning of a new era of direct colonial rule.

111. (B) Buildings, forts, and memorials
In the study of history, monuments refer to physical structures that have significant historical, cultural, or architectural value. This includes a wide range of buildings such as palaces, forts, temples, and commemorative memorials. These structures serve as tangible evidence of past eras, reflecting the artistic styles, technological capabilities, and political ideologies of the people who built them. For historians of modern India, monuments provide important insights into the legacy of both traditional Indian kingdoms and the colonial period.

112. (B) Illogical subject division and lack of financial control for ministers.
The Dyarchy system introduced in 1919 was intended to provide a limited form of representative government, but it faced significant structural problems. Administrative subjects were divided into 'reserved' and 'transferred' categories. However, this division was often illogical, as ministers responsible for transferred subjects like education had no control over the 'reserved' subject of finance. This lack of financial authority and the overlapping powers of the Governor made it extremely difficult for Indian ministers to function effectively, leading to the eventual failure of the system.

113. (A) Intense rivalry and a series of four major wars
The relationship between the British and the state of Mysore was marked by persistent hostility and conflict during the late eighteenth century. Under the leadership of Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, Mysore emerged as a powerful military and commercial rival to the British in South India. The British viewed Mysore's strength and its alliance with the French as a major threat to their own expansion. This rivalry resulted in four major Anglo-Mysore wars, which ended only with the final defeat of Tipu Sultan.

114. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The evolution of the judiciary under the East India Company involved an attempt to create a structured legal system. This included establishing a hierarchy of courts and initiating the process of codifying laws to achieve uniformity. Initially, separate legal systems were often maintained for Europeans and Indians. However, the judiciary was not completely independent of the executive, as high-ranking administrative officials often held judicial powers. The establishment of the Supreme Court at Calcutta was a key step in this long-term administrative development.

115. (D) Third Carnatic War (Battle of Wandiwash)
The struggle for European dominance in India reached a decisive conclusion during the Third Carnatic War. The Battle of Wandiwash in

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the major uprising that occurred in the mid-nineteenth century.

57. (A) 3, 4, 1, 2
British territorial expansion occurred in stages over nearly a century. They first secured the revenue rights of Bengal in 1765. This was followed by the conquest of Mysore by the end of the eighteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, the British annexed Punjab after a series of military conflicts. Finally, the state of Oudh was annexed in 1856. This sequence illustrates the gradual and systematic process by which the British East India Company consolidated its dominion.

58. (A) To assert British supremacy and control their external relations
Paramountcy was a policy through which the British government established its supreme authority over the various princely states in India. The main objective was to ensure that no state could act independently in matters of foreign policy or military alliances. By asserting this supremacy, the British could maintain overall political control across the subcontinent while allowing local rulers to manage their internal affairs, provided they remained loyal to and accepted the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown.

59. (D) To respect the rights, dignity, and honor of native princes
The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 followed the suppression of the major uprising and marked a significant shift in British policy. It sought to stabilize the political situation by reassuring the traditional Indian rulers. The British promised to honor existing treaties and refrain from further territorial annexations. This move was intended to win the loyalty of the princely states and ensure they remained stable pillars of support for British rule during the subsequent period of the Raj.

60. (C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
The British used several specific doctrines and systems to expand and maintain their power. The Doctrine of Lapse involved annexing states without a natural male heir. The Subsidiary Alliance required rulers to fund British troops for protection. Dual Government in Bengal separated revenue collection from administrative duties. Paramountcy was the overarching claim that British authority was superior to all Indian states. Each of these policies served to systematically increase British political and territorial influence across the subcontinent.

61. (C) Madras
The Revolt of 1857 was a major uprising that was concentrated primarily in Northern and Central India. Key centers of the rebellion included Delhi, where the sepoys declared the Mughal Emperor their leader, as well as Lucknow and Kanpur, which saw intense fighting and civilian participation. In contrast, the southern regions, including the Madras Presidency, remained relatively stable and did not experience the same level of widespread conflict or organized rebellion against British authority during this period.

62. (D) The creation of Presidencies (Bengal, Bombay, Madras) with considerable autonomy initially
During the early stages of the East India Company's rule, the administration was organized into three main Presidencies: Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. Initially, these Presidencies operated with a high degree of independence from one another, each managed by its own Governor and council. Over time, the British government passed legislation to centralize control, making the Governor-General in Bengal the supreme authority. This evolution reflected a move toward a more unified and structured colonial administration across India.

63. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on local self-government was a significant administrative reform aimed at creating local boards and municipalities. The primary intention was to provide a training ground for Indians in the art of self-governance and to improve administrative efficiency through decentralization. While the reform was a pioneering step toward representative institutions, its full potential was not realized due to limited financial resources and the continued interference of colonial officials in local administrative matters.

64. (B) The British East India Company and the French East India Company
The Carnatic Wars were a series of military conflicts fought in Southern India during the

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passed Pitt's India Act of 1784. This significant legislation established a dual system of control by creating a Board of Control in London. This Board, consisting of government officials, was given the authority to supervise and direct the Company's civil, military, and revenue affairs. This act marked a major step in the increasing intervention of the British government in the management of its Indian territories.

123. (B) Reflect public opinion, political debates, and the growth of national consciousness.
Newspapers are a vital source for historians of modern India because they document the evolving political and social discourse of the period. They provide a record of contemporary debates, the grievances of different social groups, and the gradual emergence of a national consciousness. By analyzing the content of various newspapers, historians can understand how public opinion was shaped and how the nationalist movement gained momentum. While they reflect specific viewpoints, they offer a dynamic and multifaceted perspective on the challenges to colonial rule.

124. (C) It led to the establishment of the British political power in India, starting with Bengal.
The Battle of Plassey in 1757 is widely regarded as a pivotal event in Indian history. The victory of the British East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, was achieved through military force and political conspiracy. This triumph gave the British significant influence over the wealthiest province in India. It marked the transition of the Company from a purely commercial entity to a major political force, laying the foundation for their eventual territorial expansion and the establishment of British dominion.

125. (D) The Morley-Minto Reforms
The constitutional changes introduced in 1909 are famously known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, named after the then Secretary of State, John Morley, and the Viceroy, Lord Minto. These reforms aimed to address growing nationalist demands by increasing the number of Indians in the legislative councils. Although they introduced a degree of representative government, they are most remembered for establishing the controversial system of separate electorates for Muslims, which had long-term implications for the political landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

126. (A) A complex event with participation from diverse social groups.
The Revolt of 1857 was a multifaceted event that cannot be categorized by a single cause or a single group of participants. It began as a military mutiny but quickly spread to include civilian populations in many parts of Northern and Central India. The revolt involved diverse groups, including sepoys, peasants, artisans, and traditional rulers, each driven by their own specific grievances against British rule. This complexity makes it one of the most significant and debated events in the history of colonial India.

127. (B) The Indian ruler had to accept a British Resident at his court and pay for the maintenance of a British contingent.
The Subsidiary Alliance was a key diplomatic tool used by the British, particularly under Lord Wellesley, to expand their influence over Indian states. Under this system, a participating ruler agreed to maintain a British military contingent within their territory at their own expense. Additionally, they had to accept a British Resident at their court, who would oversee the state's external affairs. This arrangement allowed the British to control the military and foreign policy of the state without formal annexation, effectively making it a protectorate.

128. (B) Paramount because it was paramount, deliberately leaving it vague and flexible.
The concept of Paramountcy was used by the British to define their supreme authority over the princely states. However, the British deliberately avoided a precise legal definition of the term. They maintained that their power was 'paramount because it was paramount,' which allowed them to interpret and apply the doctrine in a flexible manner. This vagueness gave the colonial government the freedom to intervene in the internal affairs of the states whenever they deemed it necessary to protect their own interests or ensure stability.

129. (A) 1858
The year 1858 marked a fundamental shift in the governance of India. Following the suppression

The British recognized the territorial integrity of the states and the rights of the rulers, in exchange for their loyalty and acceptance of British paramountcy. This cooperation ensured that the princely states remained stable supporters of British colonial rule.

158. (A) 'The First War of Indian Independence'
The nature of the 1857 Revolt has been a subject of intense historical debate. Some colonial historians characterized it as a simple military mutiny with no broader popular support. In contrast, many Indian nationalist historians have described it as 'The First War of Indian Independence,' viewing it as a coordinated and widespread struggle to overthrow British rule. This perspective emphasizes the participation of various social groups and the underlying desire for freedom, highlighting the significance of the revolt in the history of the national movement.

159. (B) To interfere in the internal affairs of the state and safeguard British interests.
Under the Subsidiary Alliance system, the British placed a Resident at the court of the participating Indian ruler. Although the Resident's official role was to act as a diplomatic link, in practice, they often exerted significant influence over the internal administration of the state. The Resident's primary responsibility was to ensure that the state followed British guidance and that the interests of the East India Company were protected. This allowed the British to effectively control the state's policies and resources without formal annexation.

160. (B) The Provinces
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a major constitutional milestone that brought about significant changes in the administrative structure of the country. One of its most important features was the introduction of Provincial Autonomy. This meant that the provinces of British India were granted a large measure of control over their own internal affairs. The system of Dyarchy was abolished in the provinces, and executive power was transferred to ministers responsible to the local legislature, representing a significant step toward representative government at the provincial level.

161. (A) Subjectivity and potential for personal bias
Biographies and memoirs are important historical sources because they offer personal accounts and first-hand perspectives on individuals and events. However, their main limitation is their inherent subjectivity. Authors often write from their own point of view, which can lead to personal biases, the justification of their past actions, or the omission of unfavorable details. Because these narratives reflect the author's own memory and interpretation, historians must cross-examine them with other contemporary records to build a more accurate and balanced factual history.

162. (C) The weakness and internal conflicts of the successor states of the Mughal Empire.
The success of the British in establishing their dominion over India was greatly aided by the political situation during the eighteenth century. As the central Mughal authority declined, several successor states emerged, often competing for power and territory. These internal conflicts and rivalries created a fragmented political landscape that the British East India Company successfully exploited. By playing one state against another and taking advantage of their lack of unity, the British were able to gradually expand their control through a combination of military force and diplomacy.

163. (D) Introduce uniformity and establish the principle of Rule of Law.
The British undertook the codification of laws in India to replace the varied and sometimes contradictory traditional legal systems with a more structured and predictable framework. Major works like the Indian Penal Code were designed to introduce legal uniformity across all territories. This process was intended to establish the principle of the Rule of Law, where administration is carried out according to a set of clearly defined rules. A uniform and predictable legal system was essential for efficient colonial governance and for facilitating modern commercial activities.

164. (C) The British Government
In the study of British Indian history, the term "Crown" refers specifically to the period when the British government assumed direct responsibility for the administration of India. This shift occurred in 1858, following the suppression of the 1857 Revolt and the formal abolition of the rule

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their posts. A key provision of this agreement was the commitment that officials would not engage in private trade or accept bribes. This was part of a larger effort to professionalize the administration, reduce corruption, and ensure that the officials focused solely on the interests of the Company.

137. (A) The political education and training of Indians in administration.
Lord Ripon's resolution on local self-government in 1882 was a pioneering step in the history of Indian administration. Its primary goal was to create local boards and municipalities where Indians could gain experience in managing their own affairs. Ripon believed that by allowing elected representatives to participate in local governance, the people would be educated in the principles of representative institutions. This reform was intended to foster civic responsibility and prepare Indians for a greater role in the future administration of the country.

138. (D) The state-controlled, bureaucratic, and financially unsound nature of their company.
Several factors contributed to the ultimate failure of the French to establish a lasting empire in India. A major reason was the structure of the French East India Company itself. Unlike the British Company, which was a private enterprise with significant autonomy, the French Company was a state department. This meant it was heavily controlled and financed by the French government, making it less flexible and more vulnerable to the political and financial problems of the state in Europe, which ultimately hindered its operations.

139. (C) A is true but R is false.
The Government of India Act of 1935 proposed the creation of an All-India Federation that would bring together the provinces of British India and the princely states. However, this federation never actually came into existence. While the provinces were prepared for the change, the princely states were reluctant to join as they feared losing their internal autonomy. Additionally, the Indian National Congress and other political groups were dissatisfied with several provisions of the Act, leading to a lack of consensus that stalled the plan.

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140. (C) The introduction of the Enfield Rifle.
The immediate military spark for the 1857 Revolt was the introduction of the new Enfield rifle. The cartridges for this rifle were rumored to be greased with animal fat from cows and pigs, which was deeply offensive to both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. The requirement to bite the cartridges to use them was perceived as a deliberate attempt to violate their religious beliefs. This grievance acted as a unifying force that led to wide-scale mutiny among the sepoys, starting the broader rebellion.

141. (D) Three major presidencies: Bengal, Bombay, and Madras.
As the East India Company's territorial control expanded, its administrative structure evolved into three main divisions known as Presidencies. These were centered in the major coastal cities of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. Each Presidency was initially governed independently by its own Governor and council. Over time, the British government passed laws to centralize control, eventually making the Governor-General in Bengal the supreme authority over the other two. This Presidency system remained the basic framework of British provincial administration in India for many decades.

142. (A) The British using succession disputes to increase their own influence against the French.
During the mid-eighteenth century, the Carnatic region in Southern India became a major arena for the rivalry between the British and French East India Companies. Both powers sought to expand their influence by intervening in the internal affairs of local Indian kingdoms. They exploited succession disputes and power struggles among local rulers, with the British and French each supporting different claimants to the throne. This strategy allowed the European companies to turn local conflicts into broader struggles for their own commercial and political dominance in the region.

143. (B) Oral evidence is always factually precise and should be accepted without cross-verification.
Historians use a variety of sources to reconstruct the past, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. Archival records provide an official perspective, while biographies and memoirs offer personal, subjective accounts. Creative literature

of the massive uprising that began in 1857, the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act. This legislation formally abolished the rule of the East India Company and transferred the administration of the country directly to the British Crown. This change initiated the period of direct colonial rule, known as the British Raj, with the government being managed by a Secretary of State and a Viceroy.

130. (C) Monopolize the highly profitable trade in spices and other goods.
During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the primary objective of European powers like the Portuguese, Dutch, and early British was commercial. They were attracted to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia by the lucrative trade in spices, textiles, and other valuable commodities. Their efforts were focused on establishing trading posts and securing monopolies over maritime routes to maximize their profits. While this commercial activity later led to political involvement, their initial motivations were almost entirely driven by the desire for economic gain.

131. (D) Dyarchy
The Government of India Act of 1919 introduced a unique system of governance known as Dyarchy at the provincial level. This system divided administrative subjects into two categories: 'reserved' subjects, which were managed by the Governor and his executive council, and 'transferred' subjects, which were administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislative council. This was an attempt to introduce a limited form of representative government, although ultimate power and control over essential matters remained firmly in the hands of the British authorities.

132. (C) Hyderabad
The system of Subsidiary Alliance, introduced by Lord Wellesley, was a major strategy for expanding British influence over Indian princely states. The state of Hyderabad, under the Nizam, was the first to formally accept this arrangement in 1798. By signing the treaty, the Nizam agreed to maintain a British force and follow British guidance in external relations. This move secured the Nizam's position against his rivals while effectively bringing his state under the political control and protection of the British East India Company.

133. (B) Analyzing a novel to understand the social tensions of a period.
Creative literature serves as a valuable historical source by providing insights into the social and cultural atmosphere of a particular era. While novels are works of fiction, they often reflect the contemporary debates, social hierarchies, and emotional climate of the society in which they were written. By analyzing literary works, historians can understand how people perceived and responded to the historical changes occurring around them. This provides a more nuanced and humanized perspective that complements the official data found in administrative records.

134. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The expansion of British dominion involved different strategies across various Indian states. Hyderabad was the first to enter a Subsidiary Alliance. Oudh was annexed based on allegations of misgovernance. Punjab was formally annexed following a series of military conflicts known as the Anglo-Sikh wars. Bengal was the site of the Battle of Plassey, which was the critical event that initiated British political control in the subcontinent. These varied actions illustrate the systematic and multifaceted process of building the British empire in India.

135. (A) Would not annex their territories and would respect their treaties.
The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 followed the suppression of the 1857 Revolt and marked a major shift in British policy toward the princely states. To ensure future stability and the loyalty of the traditional rulers, the British promised to abandon the aggressive policy of annexation. They assured the Indian princes that their existing treaties would be honored and their territorial integrity respected. This policy of cooperation turned the princely states into stable allies and reliable pillars of British colonial rule in India.

136. (C) Agreeing not to engage in private trade.
The Covenanted Civil Service was an elite administrative body established by the East India Company. The term 'covenanted' comes from the formal legal agreement, or covenant, that members were required to sign before taking up

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traditional songs often relies on memory and is subject to change over generations. While they are excellent for understanding cultural perspectives and popular emotions, they are less reliable for establishing a factually precise sequence of political events due to their potential for symbolic interpretation.

151. (C) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The expansion of British dominion in India was a long and gradual process that unfolded over more than a century rather than a swift, single-decade campaign. The British East India Company utilized a diverse range of methods to establish its control. These included direct military conquest through major wars, diplomatic strategies like the Subsidiary Alliance system, and administrative policies such as the Doctrine of Lapse to annex various kingdoms. This combination of force and diplomacy allowed the British to systematically consolidate their power across the subcontinent.

152. (C) The Army, which was reorganized to serve British interests
The British consolidated their power in India through several key institutions, with the army being one of the most significant. The military was essential for expanding territory, maintaining internal order, and defending the borders. Following the 1857 Revolt, the British reorganized the army to ensure its loyalty and reliability. They implemented policies to prevent unity among different community regiments and increased the number of European soldiers. This professional and reorganized military force served as a primary instrument for maintaining and strengthening British colonial authority.

153. (A) The Provincial Governments
The system of Dyarchy was introduced by the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms under the Government of India Act of 1919. This administrative arrangement was specifically applied to the provincial governments in British India. It involved a division of subjects into 'reserved' and 'transferred' categories. The reserved subjects were managed by the Governor, while the transferred subjects were given to Indian ministers responsible to the local legislature. This system was an early experiment in introducing limited responsible government at the provincial level within the colonial framework.

154. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1
The governance of British India underwent significant changes through several landmark events and acts. The first major shift occurred in 1858 with the transfer of power from the Company to the Crown. This was followed by the Morley-Minto Reforms in 1909, which introduced separate electorates. Later, the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in 1919 implemented the system of Dyarchy. Finally, the Government of India Act of 1935 proposed a federal structure and provincial autonomy, marking the last major constitutional reform before independence.

155. (B) To use local bodies as instruments of political and popular education.
Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on local self-government was a significant reform designed to change the nature of local administration in India. Its principal objective was to establish local boards and municipalities that included elected Indian members. Ripon believed that by allowing Indians to manage their own local affairs, they would be trained in the principles of representative government. This reform was intended to provide a form of political and popular education, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and preparing the people for greater participation.

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156. (C) Dutch
Several European powers competed for trade and influence in India, but the Dutch presence was relatively short-lived compared to the others. While they established several trading posts, their primary interests shifted toward the highly profitable spice trade in the Indonesian archipelago. As they prioritized their control over Southeast Asia, the Dutch eventually faced military and commercial pressure from the British East India Company. By the late eighteenth century, they had largely withdrawn from India, making their impact on the subcontinent less significant.

157. (D) Policy of subordinate union and cooperation
Following the Revolt of 1857, the British significantly altered their policy toward the Indian princely states. They abandoned the aggressive policy of annexation and sought to turn the rulers into reliable allies. This new approach was characterized as a policy of subordinate union.

and paintings reflect the cultural spirit of an era. However, oral evidence, while valuable for providing the perspectives of common people, is not always factually precise. Like any other historical source, oral testimonies must be carefully cross-verified with other contemporary records to ensure a reliable and accurate historical narrative.

144. (B) 2 and 4 only
The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 brought about specific changes to the colonial administration. They introduced the system of separate electorates for Muslims, allowing them to elect their own representatives. Additionally, for the first time, the reforms allowed for the appointment of Indians to the Viceroy's executive council and the provincial executive councils. While these changes increased Indian participation, they did not introduce a full parliamentary system or a comprehensive system of direct elections, and the powers of the legislative councils remained limited.

145. (A) Revolt of 1857
The transfer of the administration of India from the East India Company to the British Crown was a direct result of the massive uprising known as the Revolt of 1857. The British Parliament concluded that the Company could no longer safely manage such a large and complex territory. To ensure more direct and stable control, the Government of India Act of 1858 was passed. This legislation formally ended Company rule and brought India under the direct sovereignty of the British Monarch and Parliament.

146. (C) The British government's right to intervene in internal affairs in case of 'misrule'.
Under the policy of Paramountcy, the British Crown established its supreme authority over all Indian princely states. While the rulers were granted a degree of internal autonomy, this was not absolute. The British government asserted the right to intervene in the internal affairs of a state if they believed there was significant 'misrule' or to ensure that the administration met their standards. This claim meant that the princely states were effectively subordinate to the British government, which remained the ultimate power.

147. (D) Their focus shifted to the more profitable spice trade in Indonesia and they lost to the British in India.
The Dutch East India Company's presence in India declined during the eighteenth century for several reasons. Primarily, the Dutch found much more profitable opportunities in the spice trade within the Indonesian archipelago. As they prioritized their interests in Southeast Asia, their influence in India waned. Additionally, they faced increasing military and commercial pressure from the expanding British East India Company. Following their defeat in key conflicts, the Dutch eventually focused their resources on their territories in Indonesia, leaving India to the British.

148. (C) The Constitution of India
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a comprehensive and detailed piece of legislation that significantly shaped the future governance of the country. It introduced features such as a federal structure, provincial autonomy, and a bicameral legislature. Because of its structured and formal approach to administration, many of its provisions and institutional frameworks provided the basic foundation upon which the framers of the Constitution of independent India built the legal and political structure of the new nation, making it a landmark document.

149. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only
Lord Cornwallis is recognized for his role in organizing the British Civil Service in India. He established the elite Covenanted Civil Service to create a strong and efficient administration. For a long period, senior posts within this service were reserved exclusively for Europeans. Although competitive examinations were later introduced, they were not the initial method of recruitment. For many decades, Indians were effectively excluded from the highest levels of the administration, a policy that was only gradually changed in the later colonial period.

150. (D) Oral evidence like folk legends
While all historical sources provide valuable information, some are more reliable for constructing precise factual timelines than others. Archival materials, coins, and official biographies are often dated and based on documented events. In contrast, oral evidence like folk legends and

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of the East India Company. During this period, known as the British Raj, the ultimate authority for governing India lay with the British Monarch and Parliament, representing a transition from rule by a private company to direct colonial rule.

165. (B) The introduction of the 'divide and rule' policy by creating regiments based on caste and community.
Following the 1857 Revolt, the British implemented major changes in the organization of the army to prevent future uprisings. They adopted a policy of 'divide and rule' by reorganizing Indian regiments based on caste, community, and region. By keeping different groups separate and fostering local identities over a unified national one, the British hoped to prevent the development of widespread unity among the soldiers. This strategy, combined with increasing the proportion of European soldiers, was designed to maintain a reliable and controlled military force for colonial rule.

166. (D) Lord Ripon - Local Self-Government
Several British administrators are remembered for the specific policies they introduced during their tenure. Lord Dalhousie is famously associated with the aggressive annexation policy known as the Doctrine of Lapse. Lord Wellesley expanded British influence through the Subsidiary Alliance system. Lord Ripon is recognized for his 1882 resolution which promoted the development of local self-government in India. These policies were key instruments used by the British at different times to expand their dominion, maintain stability, or manage rising nationalist demands for greater participation.

167. (A) Annexation of Punjab into the British Indian empire.
The Anglo-Sikh wars were a series of major military conflicts that occurred during the mid-nineteenth century following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Despite the strong resistance and modern organization of the Sikh army, the British East India Company eventually emerged victorious. In 1849, the British finalized the annexation of Punjab, bringing the last major independent Indian power under their control. This marked the completion of British expansion in the northern part of the subcontinent and the establishment of a secure frontier for their empire.

168. (C) The establishment of British supremacy over the French in India
The Carnatic Wars were a decisive phase in the history of European expansion in India. Fought primarily in the mid-eighteenth century, these wars represented a struggle for commercial and political dominance between the British and French East India Companies. The eventual British victory effectively removed their main European rival from the political landscape of the Indian subcontinent. This outcome established the British as the supreme European power in India, clearing the way for their subsequent territorial expansion and the consolidation of their political dominion over the following century.

169. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
British rule in India evolved through several major legislative acts. The 1858 Act formally ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred power to the Crown. The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 introduced the system of separate electorates. Later, the 1919 reforms implemented Dyarchy at the provincial level. Finally, the Government of India Act of 1935 proposed an All-India Federation. Each of these reforms represents a significant step in the changing administrative and constitutional relationship between Britain and India.

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170. (D) The political, dynastic, and economic history.
Monuments and coins are significant primary sources for historians because they provide concrete evidence about the past. Physical structures like forts and palaces reflect the political power and architectural styles of different eras. Coins are particularly useful for determining the dates of a ruler's reign, the extent of their territory, and the economic prosperity of their kingdom. By analyzing these tangible remains, historians can reconstruct the political, dynastic, and economic history of various periods in modern India, providing a factual basis for historical narratives.

171. (B) The introduction of 'Dyarchy' in the provinces.

The Government of India Act of 1919 introduced several significant changes to the administration of British India. Its most characteristic feature was the implementation of Dyarchy at the provincial level. This system divided administrative responsibilities into two separate categories: 'reserved' subjects, managed by the Governor, and 'transferred' subjects, administered by Indian ministers responsible to the local legislature. While this was an attempt to introduce a limited form of representative government, ultimate authority remained firmly under the control of the British Governor and the central administration.

172. (C) Commercial profit
During the early stages of European contact with India, the primary motivation of traders from Portugal, the Netherlands, and Britain was economic. They were drawn to the subcontinent by the highly profitable trade in spices, textiles, and other valuable commodities that were in high demand in European markets. Their activities were focused on establishing trading posts and securing maritime routes to maximize their commercial gains. Although this commercial presence later led to political involvement and conquest, their initial goals were almost exclusively centered on achieving commercial profit.

173. (D) Lord Dalhousie
The Doctrine of Lapse was an aggressive and controversial annexation policy introduced by Lord Dalhousie during his tenure as Governor-General. This policy allowed the British to take control of any princely state where the ruler died without a natural male heir, denying the traditional right to adopt a successor. This policy was used to annex several significant states, including Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi. The aggressive application of this doctrine caused widespread resentment among the Indian ruling elite and was a major political cause of the 1857 Revolt.

174. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Revolt of 1857 was characterized by its widespread nature, involving not only soldiers but also various civilian groups. Deep-seated resentment had built up due to aggressive British annexation policies and economic exploitation that ruined traditional livelihoods. Furthermore, perceptions of interference in religious and social customs provided a powerful unifying factor. These combined grievances transformed what began as a military mutiny into a broader rebellion against British colonial administration in several parts of Northern and Central India.

175. (B) Establish a regularised and systematic judicial administration.
The evolution of the judiciary under the East India Company was an attempt to replace the diverse and decentralized traditional legal systems with a more structured and uniform framework. This involved establishing a clear hierarchy of civil and criminal courts across the Company's territories. By regularizing the judicial process and eventually codifying the laws, the British sought to create a predictable legal environment. This systematic administration was essential for the effective management of the colonial state and for providing a stable legal basis for its commercial and political activities.

176. (B) It was annexed on the grounds of misgovernance, which caused widespread resentment.
The annexation of Oudh in 1856 holds a unique position in the history of British relations with Indian states. Unlike other annexations based on military defeat or the Doctrine of Lapse, Oudh was taken over based on the specific allegation of chronic misgovernance by the Nawab. This move by Lord Dalhousie caused widespread anger, not only among the ruling elite of Oudh but also among the common people and sepoys from the region. This resentment made Oudh a major center of the 1857 Revolt against British rule.

177. (A) They received strong financial and naval support from their home government.
Several factors contributed to the eventual success of the British over their European rivals in India. A major advantage was the strong and consistent support they received from the British government, which provided both financial stability and powerful naval backing. Unlike some of their competitors, the British East India Company was able to maintain a reliable supply line and manage its resources effectively, especially during periods of conflict. This stable

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backing from home allowed the British to endure long struggles and eventually emerge as the dominant power in the subcontinent.

178. (C) The proposal for an All-India Federation consisting of British India and the Princely States.
A key and ambitious provision of the Government of India Act of 1935 was the proposal to establish an All-India Federation. This federation was intended to unify the provinces of British India and the numerous princely states under a single federal government. Although the federation never fully materialized due to a lack of consensus among the stakeholders, the Act represented a major effort to restructure the colonial administration and provide a more comprehensive and formal constitutional framework for the governance of India during that period.

179. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4
The transition to direct rule by the British Crown in 1858 brought several significant changes to the administration of India. The Governor-General was given the title of Viceroy, representing the direct authority of the Crown. The aggressive policy of annexing princely states was officially abandoned to ensure stability. The civil service was gradually opened to competitive examinations, and the British government publicly promised a policy of non-interference in the social and religious matters of the Indian people, aiming to prevent future large-scale uprisings.

180. (C) Elected representatives of the local people.
The concept of local self-government refers to a system where the administration of a specific locality is managed by bodies composed of elected representatives of the local population. In the context of late nineteenth-century India, this system involved the establishment of local boards and municipalities. The primary intention was to decentralize administration and allow local people to participate in managing their own affairs, such as education and sanitation. This was seen as a step toward developing representative institutions and providing a means for political education among the people.

181. (B) Biographies and memoirs
To understand the personal and emotional aspects of historical events, biographies and memoirs are the most valuable sources. These personal narratives offer first-hand accounts that reflect the thoughts, motivations, and feelings of individuals who lived through a particular period. Unlike official records that focus on formal administration, these subjective accounts provide a humanized perspective on the past. While they must be evaluated for personal bias, they offer deep insights into the emotional climate and personal experiences that are often missing from purely factual or statistical reports.

182. (D) The Marathas and the Mysore Sultanate
The expansion of British dominion in India was marked by a series of major military conflicts with powerful regional kingdoms that had emerged following the decline of the Mughal Empire. Two of the most significant rivals were the Maratha Confederacy and the Mysore Sultanate. The British fought several intense wars against both powers during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The eventual defeat of the Marathas and the kingdom of Mysore were crucial milestones that cleared the way for the British to establish themselves as the paramount power in India.

183. (A) Maintain British authority and suppress opposition
The professional police system established by the British East India Company was primarily designed as an instrument of state control. Its main function was to ensure the stability of British rule by maintaining internal order and suppressing any forms of political dissent or local opposition that could threaten colonial authority. While it was responsible for general law enforcement and preventing crime, its primary loyalty and purpose were centered on protecting the commercial and political interests of the British administration across the expanding territories of their Indian empire.

184. (B) 2, 4, and 5 only
European interaction with India was complex and evolved over several centuries. The Dutch were primarily focused on the spice trade in Southeast Asia, making India a secondary interest. The rivalry between the British and French led to military conflicts in the Carnatic region. Initially, the British East India Company was a purely commercial body but gradually

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acquired significant political power. In contrast, the Portuguese did not maintain a monopoly throughout the seventeenth century, and the French Company was state-controlled, unlike its British counterpart.

185. (A) Their intervention in the internal affairs of princely states.
The doctrine of Paramountcy was a political principle used by the British to define their supreme authority over the various princely states in India. It asserted that the power of the British government was superior to that of any local ruler. This doctrine was frequently used to justify British intervention in the internal affairs of these states, especially in cases where the colonial administration deemed it necessary to address perceived misrule or to protect their own political interests. This concept ensured that the British maintained ultimate control across the entire subcontinent.

186. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a major reform that introduced the concept of Provincial Autonomy. This change was intended to grant the provinces of British India a larger measure of control over their internal administration. While executive power was given to Indian ministers responsible to the legislature, this autonomy was not absolute. The Governor still retained significant special powers and 'discretionary' authority, which allowed him to intervene in the administration whenever necessary, meaning that the transfer of power was limited rather than complete.

187. (B) Interfering with Indian customs like Sati and supporting widow remarriage.
A significant cause of the discontent that led to the 1857 Revolt was the perception among many Indians that the British were interfering with their traditional socio-religious customs. Reforms such as the abolition of Sati and the legalization of Hindu widow remarriage were seen by traditionalists as an unwelcome and dangerous intrusion into their long-standing beliefs and practices. This perceived threat to their religious and cultural identity acted as a powerful unifying force that contributed to the widespread resentment and the eventual outbreak of the rebellion against colonial rule.

188. (C) His territory became the primary theatre of the Anglo-French rivalry in South India.
The Nawab of Carnatic was a central figure in eighteenth-century Indian history because his territory in Southern India became the main arena for the struggle between the British and French East India Companies. Both European powers sought to gain influence in the region by intervening in local politics and supporting rival claimants for the throne of the Carnatic. These conflicts, known as the Carnatic Wars, were instrumental in establishing British dominance in the South and removing the French as a major political competitor in the Indian subcontinent.

189. (B) 3, 1, 4, 2
The process of British expansion in India was marked by several key military and political events. It began with the Battle of Buxar in 1764, which gave the British significant revenue rights. This was followed by the first of four major wars against the kingdom of Mysore in the late eighteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, the British finalized the annexation of Punjab after a series of conflicts. Finally, the massive uprising known as the Revolt of 1857 occurred, representing a major challenge to their established dominion.

190. (A) Regulating Act, 1773
The process of centralizing the administration of the East India Company began with the Regulating Act of 1773. This landmark legislation was passed by the British Parliament to increase its oversight and control over the Company's affairs. A key provision of the Act was the elevation of the Governor of Bengal to the position of Governor-General of Bengal. This new office was given authority over the other two Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, laying the foundation for a unified and centralized colonial government in the Indian subcontinent.

191. (B) The Portuguese
While several European powers established colonial outposts in India, the Portuguese presence was the most enduring in certain specific locations. After their initial arrival in the late fifteenth century, they maintained control over several coastal territories, including Goa, Daman, and Diu. Even after most of India achieved independence from the British in 1947,

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these enclaves remained under Portuguese administration. It was only in 1961 that these areas were finally integrated into the Indian Union, ending the longest period of European colonial presence in the subcontinent.

192. (B) The end of the East India Company's rule and the assumption of direct control by the British Crown.
The Revolt of 1857 had a profound impact on the governance of India, leading to the immediate end of the East India Company's administration. The British Parliament concluded that the Company could no longer manage such a large territory. Consequently, the Government of India Act of 1858 was passed, which transferred the responsibility of governing India directly to the British Crown. This change initiated the era of direct colonial rule, known as the British Raj, with the administration being managed by the British government in London through a Viceroy.

193. (A) The Subsidiary Alliance
The British East India Company expanded its influence over many Indian states through diplomacy rather than direct conquest. A key example is the relationship with the Nizam of Hyderabad. In 1798, the Nizam became the first major Indian ruler to formally sign a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance with the British under Lord Wellesley. By accepting this arrangement, the Nizam agreed to maintain a British military force at his own expense and follow British guidance in external affairs. This strategy successfully brought the powerful state of Hyderabad under British influence and protection.

194. (C) Introduction of separate electorates for Muslims
The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 were a significant milestone in the constitutional history of British India. Their most characteristic and impactful feature was the introduction of separate electorates for the Muslim community. This policy allowed Muslim voters to elect their own representatives to the legislative councils. While the reforms were presented as a way to provide representation for a minority group, the establishment of communal electorates is often viewed as a move that institutionalized political divisions and had a lasting effect on the nationalist movement in India.

195. (D) Create the administrative and military apparatus for ruling a vast colonial empire.
The East India Company developed a structured and professional administration by establishing institutions like the Civil Service, the Judiciary, the Police, and a modern Army. The primary objective of these developments was to create a reliable and efficient framework for governing its expanding territories. These institutions were designed to collect revenue, maintain law and order, and provide the military strength necessary to consolidate and protect British colonial power. Together, they formed the essential apparatus that allowed the Company to effectively manage a vast and complex colonial empire in India.

196. (C) Local administration by bodies with elected Indian members.
The concept of local self-government, introduced in the 1880s, referred to a system of decentralizing administration to local boards and municipalities. These bodies were designed to include elected Indian members who would participate in managing local affairs such as public health, education, and sanitation. The primary goal of this reform was to provide a means for political and popular education among the Indian people and to make the administration more responsive to local needs. This represented an early step in the development of representative institutions within the colonial framework.

197. (B) The changing social hierarchies, customs, and British-Indian interactions.
Paintings from the modern period of Indian history serve as a valuable visual source for understanding the social and cultural environment. They capture the nuances of daily life, traditional customs, and the evolving relationship between the British and various sections of Indian society. Through art, historians can analyze the changing social hierarchies, the adoption of new fashions, and how both the rulers and the ruled were portrayed. These visual records provide a unique perspective on the human and cultural dimension of history that is often missing from formal administrative documents.

198. (D) The decline and fragmentation of the Mughal Empire.

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resulted in several major wars that eventually led to the defeat of Mysore.

223. (B) Transformation from trading power to paramount political power.
The 'Establishment and Expansion of British Dominion' refers to the historical process by which the British East India Company was transformed from a purely commercial organization into the supreme political authority in India. This process unfolded over more than a century and involved a combination of military victories in major wars, diplomatic strategies like the Subsidiary Alliance, and administrative policies such as the Doctrine of Lapse. This expansion gradually brought most of the subcontinent under direct or indirect British control, establishing them as the paramount power and laying the foundation for the colonial Raj that lasted until 1947.

224. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only
The governance of British India underwent a major change with the 1858 transfer of power from the Company to the Crown. Under the Company, the administration was overseen by a Governor-General accountable to the Board of Control and Court of Directors. Under the Crown, a Viceroy was appointed as a direct representative of the Monarch, reporting to the Secretary of State for India. The Revolt of 1857 was the critical event that precipitated this transition. While the top levels of governance changed, the basic administrative structure, including the civil service and judiciary, was largely maintained rather than dismantled.

225. (A) Procure Indian goods like spices and textiles for the European market.
When European trading companies first arrived in India during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, their primary objective was commercial gain. They were attracted to the subcontinent by the highly profitable trade in commodities like spices, fine textiles, and other valuable goods that were in high demand in European markets. Their activities were initially focused on establishing trading posts and securing maritime routes to facilitate this trade. While these commercial ventures later led to political involvement and the acquisition of territory, their original and most fundamental purpose was to engage in profitable trade for their respective home countries.

226. (C) British Parliament
The transition from the administration of the East India Company to the British Crown in 1858 brought about a fundamental shift in the ultimate responsibility for governing India. Following this change, the governance of India was no longer managed by a private trading company but was formally overseen by the British Monarch and the British Parliament. A Secretary of State for India was appointed to manage Indian affairs from London, ensuring that all policies and administrative decisions were directly accountable to the parliamentary system. This direct colonial rule meant that the ultimate authority for India's governance lay with the political institutions in Britain.

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227. (D) The Governor acting with ministers responsible to the legislative council.
Under the system of Dyarchy introduced at the provincial level by the Government of India Act of 1919, administrative responsibilities were divided into two categories. 'Transferred' subjects included matters like education, public health, and local self-government. These subjects were administered by the Governor, but only after consultation with and on the advice of Indian ministers. These ministers were themselves members of the provincial legislative council and were held accountable to it. This was an early attempt to introduce a form of responsible government, although the Governor still retained ultimate authority and control over the more important 'reserved' subjects.

228. (C) The de-industrialization and ruin of traditional artisans and craftsmen.
A major economic cause for the Revolt of 1857 was the negative impact of British rule on traditional Indian industries. The influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain and the imposition of heavy duties on Indian exports led to a process of de-industrialization. This resulted in the ruin of several traditional industries, particularly the hand-weaving and textile crafts, which had supported a significant portion of the population. The loss of livelihood and the resulting poverty among artisans and craftsmen created widespread economic distress and deep-seated resentment that contributed

administration was directly accountable to the British Parliament, replacing the previous system of control by the Company's Board of Directors.

205. (D) Made the Governor-General of Bengal the Governor-General of India.
The Charter Act of 1833 was a significant milestone in the centralization of the East India Company's administration. A key provision of this Act was the elevation of the Governor-General of Bengal to the position of Governor-General of India. This new title reflected his supreme authority over all British territories in the subcontinent. Additionally, the Act took away the legislative powers of the Governors of Bombay and Madras, concentrating all law-making authority in the hands of the central government headed by the Governor-General, thereby creating a more unified and centralized colonial administration.

206. (A) 'Divide and Rule' and balancing of communities within the army.
Following the Revolt of 1857, the British implemented a major reorganization of the army based on the principle of 'divide and rule'. They realized that unity among soldiers from different backgrounds was a significant threat to colonial authority. To prevent future uprisings, the British intentionally balanced various castes, communities, and ethnic groups within regiments. They fostered regional and local identities over a unified national one, hoping that these divisions would prevent widespread coordination against the government. This strategy, combined with more European troops, was designed to ensure a reliable and controlled military force for colonial rule.

207. (B) Using local bodies as a tool for political education.
Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on local self-government was a landmark reform that aimed to decentralize the administration of British India. Its primary focus was not just on improving administrative efficiency but on the political training of Indians. Ripon believed that by establishing local boards and municipalities with elected members, Indians would gain valuable experience in the principles of representative institutions. This reform was intended to foster a sense of civic responsibility and prepare the people for a greater role in governance, making local bodies a significant tool for political and popular education among the population.

208. (B) A legislature with two houses.
The Government of India Act of 1919 introduced several significant changes to the central administration, including the establishment of a bicameral legislature. This meant that the central law-making body was divided into two separate houses: the Council of State, which served as the upper house, and the Legislative Assembly, which served as the lower house. This new structure replaced the previous single-chamber council and was designed to introduce a more formal and representative system of legislation at the central level, although ultimate power and final control still remained firmly in the hands of the British Viceroy.

209. (C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The British used various methods to expand their dominion across India. The Carnatic region was a major theater of conflicts between the British and French during the eighteenth century. In Bengal, a system of Dual Government was established following their early military victories. Oudh was annexed in 1856 based on allegations of misgovernance. Several other states, like Jhansi, were brought under direct British control through the application of the Doctrine of Lapse. These different strategies illustrate the multifaceted and systematic process by which the British East India Company gradually consolidated its political power.

210. (C) Subaltern or common people's perspective.
Oral evidence is a particularly valuable source for historians who want to understand the history of the subaltern or common people. While official records and administrative documents often focus on the perspectives of the ruling elite, oral traditions, folk songs, and personal testimonies provide a bottom-up view of the past. These sources capture the experiences, emotions, and grievances of marginalized groups who are frequently excluded from traditional written histories. By analyzing oral evidence, historians can build a more comprehensive and balanced narrative that includes the voices and perspectives of the broader population in modern India.

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The rise of British power in India during the eighteenth century occurred simultaneously with a significant change in the local political landscape. After the death of Emperor Aurangzeb, the central Mughal authority began to decline and fragment into several independent and semi-independent regional states. This period of political instability and constant conflict among successor states created a power vacuum that the British East India Company was able to exploit. The lack of a strong central authority made it much easier for the British to gradually expand their territorial control and political influence.

199. (A) Their larger global commercial and imperial rivalry, which was extended to India.
The rivalry between the British and the French in the eighteenth century was not limited to the Indian subcontinent; it was a manifestation of their broader global competition for power and colonial possessions. As these two European nations fought in Europe and the Americas, their commercial and political struggles were naturally extended to India. Both East India Companies sought to dominate the Indian trade and establish political influence by intervening in the affairs of local kingdoms. This persistent global rivalry led to a series of military conflicts known as the Carnatic Wars.

200. (C) A biography of a nationalist leader written by his contemporary
Archival materials consist of official documents and records that are generated by a government or organization in the course of its operations. These include administrative proceedings, official letters, and land revenue records, which provide direct evidence of formal decisions and policies. In contrast, a biography written by a contemporary is a personal account of an individual's life. While it is a valuable historical source for understanding personal motivations and the spirit of a period, it is a subjective narrative rather than an official record, and therefore not categorized as archival material.

201. (A) Subsidiary Alliance
During his tenure as Governor-General, Lord Wellesley significantly accelerated the expansion of British influence in India through the aggressive use of the Subsidiary Alliance system. Under this policy, Indian rulers were induced or coerced into a treaty with the British, agreeing to maintain a British force at their own expense and follow British advice in external affairs. This arrangement allowed the British to control the military and foreign policy of numerous states without formal annexation. This strategy turned several independent kingdoms into protectorates, greatly increasing the East India Company's political and territorial dominance.

202. (D) Battle of Plassey and Battle of Buxar
The relationship between the British East India Company and the region of Bengal underwent a decisive transformation following two major military victories. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 gave the British significant political influence, while the Battle of Buxar in 1764 solidified their military dominance over the combined forces of local rulers. Following Buxar, the British secured the Diwani rights, allowing them to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. These events effectively shifted the Company's role from being purely commercial traders to becoming the virtual and later the formal rulers of Bengal.

203. (B) Lack of a unified vision for a post-British India
While many historians view the Revolt of 1857 as an early struggle for freedom, several factors complicate its categorization as a modern war for national independence. A major criticism is the lack of a single, unified national vision among the diverse participants. The sepoys, traditional rulers, and peasants often fought for localized grievances or to restore traditional systems rather than to create a unified, independent Indian nation. The absence of a coordinated plan for what an independent India would look like made it easier for the British to suppress the fragmented and sometimes isolated centers of rebellion.

204. (C) Secretary of State for India
The transition from the administration of the East India Company to the direct rule of the British Crown in 1858 led to a fundamental change in how India was managed. The Government of India Act established a new high-ranking position within the British Cabinet called the Secretary of State for India. This official was given the ultimate responsibility for overseeing all matters related to the governance of India from London. This change ensured that the Indian

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217. (A) Their larger global political and commercial conflict.
The struggle for influence between the British and the French in the eighteenth century was not a localized Indian dispute; it was a manifestation of their broader global imperial rivalry. As Britain and France competed for power and commercial dominance in Europe, the Americas, and Africa, their competition was naturally extended to the Indian subcontinent. Both East India Companies sought to control the lucrative Indian trade and establish political influence by intervening in the affairs of local kingdoms. This persistent global conflict led to several military struggles in India, known as the Carnatic Wars, which eventually decided the dominant European power.

218. (D) The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and two subsequent wars.
The annexation of Punjab occurred in the mid-nineteenth century following a period of political instability. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who had built a strong and independent Sikh kingdom, the region was plagued by internal power struggles. The British East India Company exploited this instability, leading to two major Anglo-Sikh wars. Despite the valiant resistance from the modern and well-trained Sikh army, the British eventually emerged victorious. In 1849, the British formally annexed Punjab into their empire, bringing the last major independent state in India under their direct territorial and political control.

219. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
The Revolt of 1857 was caused by a combination of political, economic, and social grievances. The ruin of traditional Indian industries by British economic policies led to widespread poverty and resentment. The aggressive annexation of several Indian states through policies like the Doctrine of Lapse angered traditional rulers and their subjects. Additionally, the activities of Christian missionaries and social reforms introduced by the British were often perceived by the public as an unwelcome interference in their religious and social customs. While the revolt was a massive challenge, it was not solely a conspiracy by the Mughal emperor.

220. (C) Reserved and Transferred
The system of Dyarchy was introduced at the provincial level by the Government of India Act of 1919. It involved a division of administrative responsibilities into two separate categories. 'Reserved' subjects, such as law and order, finance, and land revenue, remained under the direct control of the Governor and his executive council. 'Transferred' subjects, like education, public health, and local self-government, were administered by Indian ministers who were responsible to the provincial legislature. This was a significant attempt to introduce a limited form of responsible government, although ultimate control over essential matters remained with the British authorities.

221. (D) Archival Materials
Archival materials are the primary sources that provide the most direct insight into the official policies and administrative decisions of both the East India Company and the British Crown. These records, which include government proceedings, official reports, and formal correspondence between various levels of administration, document the internal justifications and the official rationale behind the governance of colonial India. For historians, these documents are essential for reconstructing the administrative history and understanding how the ruling powers functioned. While other sources like newspapers and literature provide different perspectives, archival materials capture the formal and institutional side of historical events.

222. (A) Tipu Sultan was perceived as a major threat to British ambitions in South India due to his military strength and French alliance.
The relationship between the British and Mysore under Tipu Sultan was marked by intense hostility during the late eighteenth century. The British viewed Tipu Sultan as a formidable and dangerous rival because he had built a strong, modernized army and actively sought alliances with the French, who were the main European competitors of the British. His military capabilities and independent foreign policy were seen as a direct threat to British efforts to establish their own political and commercial supremacy in South India. This persistent rivalry

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means of political and popular education, the resolution represented a significant step toward decentralization and greater Indian participation in local administration.

247. (A) Respond to Indian nationalist demands with limited concessions while retaining ultimate British control.
The constitutional reforms introduced between 1909 and 1935 were a part of a consistent British strategy to manage the rising tide of Indian nationalism. As demands for self-rule grew, the British Parliament passed acts that provided gradual and limited participation for Indians in the administration, such as increasing the size of councils or introducing provincial autonomy. These concessions were intended to satisfy moderate political elements and maintain stability. However, the reforms were carefully structured to ensure that ultimate authority and control over essential matters like defense and finance remained firmly in British hands, preserving the core of colonial power.

248. (C) The Victoria Memorial in Calcutta
In the study of history, monuments are physical structures that serve as tangible evidence of past eras. They provide insights into the architectural styles, artistic values, and political ideologies of the time they were built. An example of a monument as a historical source is the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta. Built to commemorate Queen Victoria, this structure reflects the imperial grandeur and architectural heritage of the British Raj. For historians, such buildings are more than just physical remains; they are important sources for understanding the cultural and political legacy of the periods they represent in modern Indian history.

249. (A) The outcome of the Carnatic Wars
The struggle for supremacy between the British and the French in India was primarily decided through the Carnatic Wars. These military conflicts were a direct extension of their global imperial rivalry during the eighteenth century. The decisive British victory in these wars eliminated the French as major political competitors in the subcontinent. This outcome allowed the British East India Company to focus on expanding its territorial control across India, establishing itself as the paramount European power and laying the foundation for its eventual political dominion over the entire subcontinent.

250. (A) Annexation of Punjab into the British Indian empire.
The Anglo-Sikh wars were a series of major military conflicts that occurred during the mid-nineteenth century following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Despite the strong resistance and modern organization of the Sikh army, the British East India Company eventually emerged victorious. In 1849, the British finalized the annexation of Punjab, bringing the last major independent Indian power under their control. This marked the completion of British expansion in the northern part of the subcontinent and the establishment of a secure frontier for their empire.

251. (B) To form the foundational basis for understanding state structure and function
Archival materials consist of official records and government reports that constitute the core evidence for historical research. These documents provide critical information regarding the organizational structure and administrative operations of the state. By examining correspondence and reports, historians gain deep insights into how governmental machinery functioned during the British era and reconstruct the historical narrative accurately.

252. (A) Oral evidence.
Oral evidence serves as a vital resource for uncovering the lived experiences of non-elite and marginalized groups. While these accounts often present challenges regarding verification, they offer unique insights into subaltern perspectives that are frequently omitted from formal written records. This type of evidence allows historians to incorporate voices that would otherwise remain silent in historical narratives.

253. (C) a critical and integrated analysis of diverse source types.
Achieving a thorough comprehension of modern Indian history requires a comprehensive approach that synthesizes various types of information. Historians must engage in a critical and integrated analysis of diverse materials, ranging from official archives to personal memoirs and material artifacts. This multifaceted

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to the popular support for the rebellion against British authority.

229. (B) Lost their external sovereignty and were subject to British suzerainty.
The policy of Paramountcy, pursued by the British toward the princely states, established a relationship of subordinate cooperation. While the rulers of these states were often granted internal autonomy, they were required to accept the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown. This meant that the states lost their external sovereignty, as they were prohibited from forming independent foreign alliances or maintaining separate diplomatic relations. By establishing themselves as the paramount power, the British were able to control the external affairs and military potential of these states, ensuring overall political dominance while maintaining stability through the traditional Indian ruling elite.

230. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a significant constitutional reform that envisioned the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of both British Indian provinces and princely states. However, this proposed federation never came into being. While the Act laid down the framework, the plan required a minimum number of princely states to join voluntarily. Most rulers were reluctant to participate because they feared losing their internal autonomy and power within a federal structure. Due to this lack of consensus and several other political disagreements, the federation part of the Act remained a theoretical proposal.

231. (A) Calcutta
During the sixteenth century, the Portuguese established several major trading centers and settlements along the Indian coast to dominate the maritime trade. Key locations included Calicut, which was the site of their initial arrival, and Goa, which eventually became their main headquarters and administrative capital in India. They also held other ports like Cochin. However, Calcutta was not a Portuguese settlement; it was established as a major British base much later, at the end of the seventeenth century. The Portuguese presence was primarily focused on the western coast and other strategic maritime points across the Indian Ocean.

232. (C) Regulating Act
The administration of the East India Company was first brought under formal parliamentary oversight through the Regulating Act of 1773. This was the initial significant attempt by the British government to intervene in and regulate the affairs of a company that had acquired massive territories and political power. The Act established the office of the Governor-General of Bengal and created a council to assist him, while also making the other Presidencies of Bombay and Madras subordinate to Bengal. This legislation laid the foundation for the gradual transition toward more centralized and state-controlled colonial governance in India.

233. (A) A series of wars that ultimately broke the Maratha power and led to British ascendancy.
During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the relationship between the British and the Maratha Confederacy was characterized by intense political and military rivalry. As the Marathas were the most powerful group of regional states following the decline of the Mughal Empire, they were the main competitors of the British for supremacy in India. This rivalry led to a series of three Anglo-Maratha wars. Despite the strong resistance and military capabilities of the Marathas, the British eventually emerged victorious. These wars resulted in the fragmentation of the Maratha power, establishing the British as the paramount authority in India.

234. (D) They are often partisan and reflect the political leanings of their editors and owners.
While newspapers are an invaluable historical source for understanding public opinion and political debates, they have a key limitation. Newspapers often have a specific editorial stance and reflect the political leanings of their owners or editors. This means their reports and opinions may be partisan rather than purely objective. During the colonial period, newspapers were frequently divided along ideological lines, representing either the British administration's view or various nationalist perspectives. Therefore, historians must cross-examine newspaper reports with other sources to identify potential biases and build a more balanced and accurate historical account of events.

211. (D) Better resource management during the industrial revolution.
The success of the British over other European powers like the Portuguese and Dutch was influenced by several factors, including the impact of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. This era provided the British East India Company with advanced technology, superior manufacturing capabilities, and stable financial backing. They were able to manage their resources more effectively, especially during periods of prolonged conflict. This economic and technological edge, combined with strong naval support and strategic diplomatic alliances, allowed the British to eventually outmaneuver their European rivals and establish themselves as the paramount political and commercial power in the Indian subcontinent.

212. (C) Reorganize the army and stop the policy of expansion through annexation.
The Revolt of 1857 was a major turning point that led to significant changes in British policy toward India. Realizing that aggressive territorial expansion and the alienation of the army were major factors in the uprising, the British government adopted a more cautious approach. They formally stopped the policy of annexing princely states through doctrines like the Doctrine of Lapse. Simultaneously, the army was thoroughly reorganized to increase the proportion of European soldiers and prevent unity among Indian regiments. These measures were intended to stabilize British rule and prevent the recurrence of another large-scale rebellion against colonial authority.

213. (B) The establishment of a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts.
The judicial system developed by the East India Company was an attempt to create a structured and regularized administrative framework across its territories. This involved the establishment of a clear hierarchy of courts, ranging from local district courts to higher provincial courts of appeal. This structure aimed to provide a systematic way to manage both civil and criminal justice. Over time, the British also initiated the process of codifying laws to achieve uniformity. This hierarchical and organized system was essential for the effective governance of the colonial state and for providing a predictable legal environment for its political and commercial activities.

214. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Revolt of 1857 was characterized by its widespread nature, involving not only soldiers but also various civilian groups. Deep-seated resentment had built up due to aggressive British annexation policies and economic exploitation that ruined traditional livelihoods. Furthermore, perceptions of interference in religious and social customs provided a powerful unifying factor. These combined grievances transformed what began as a military mutiny into a broader rebellion against British colonial administration in several parts of Northern and Central India.

215. (A) Indian Independence Act, 1947
The policy of Paramountcy was a foundational element of the British relationship with the princely states throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It established that the British Crown held supreme authority over all local rulers. This principle ensured that the states were not fully independent and were subordinate to British interests in foreign policy and sometimes internal matters. This relationship remained officially in place until the passage of the Indian Independence Act in 1947. With the end of British rule, paramountcy lapsed, and the princely states were given the choice to join either India or Pakistan as independent entities.

216. (C) It was fully implemented and the federation came into being.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a comprehensive and significant constitutional reform. It proposed several major changes, including the establishment of an All-India Federation and the introduction of provincial autonomy. The Act also provided for a Federal Court to interpret the law. However, while some parts of the Act, like provincial autonomy, were implemented, the All-India Federation never actually came into being. This was primarily due to a lack of consensus among the stakeholders, as the princely states were reluctant to join and the nationalist movement had major reservations about the proposed federal structure.

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them under direct British rule and completing the expansion of their dominion.

241. (A) A conspiracy and betrayal leading to an easy British victory
The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was a major turning point that initiated British political power in India, but it was not a conventional military victory. The British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, achieved success primarily through a secret conspiracy and the betrayal of Siraj-ud-Daulah's leading general, Mir Jafar. Due to this betrayal, a large part of the Nawab's army did not participate in the actual fighting, leading to an relatively easy victory for the outnumbered British forces. This event highlights how the British used diplomatic intrigue and internal divisions to achieve their early political objectives in Bengal.

242. (C) Combined a military mutiny with a civilian rebellion in certain areas.
The Revolt of 1857 is described as multifaceted because it involved diverse participation and was driven by a wide range of grievances. While it began as a military mutiny among the sepoys, it quickly transformed into a much larger movement that included significant civilian rebellion in several parts of Northern and Central India. The uprising saw peasants, artisans, and traditional rulers joining forces with the soldiers, each group motivated by their own political, economic, or religious complaints against British rule. This combination of a professional military revolt and a broader popular rebellion makes it a complex and significant event in colonial history.

243. (D) British Parliament
The transition from Company to Crown rule in 1858 brought a fundamental change in the accountability of the Indian administration. Previously, the East India Company, a private commercial body, managed the country through its directors. After the transfer of power, the governance of India became a direct responsibility of the British government. This meant that the administration, headed by the Secretary of State for India in London, was directly accountable to the British Parliament. All major policies, legislative acts, and financial decisions related to India were now subject to parliamentary oversight and debate, marking the beginning of formal and direct colonial rule.

244. (C) Centralization and Parliamentary control
The evolution of the central structure under the East India Company was characterized by a consistent trend toward increasing centralization and parliamentary oversight. Initially, the three Presidencies operated with a high degree of autonomy. However, starting with the Regulating Act of 1773, the British Parliament passed several legislative acts to create a more unified administration headed by a Governor-General. These laws gradually reduced the Company's independence and increased the direct control of the British government. This process ensured that the expanding colonial empire was managed more systematically and remained under the ultimate authority of the political institutions in Britain.

245. (B) Prevent a similar revolt by creating a more reliable and controlled military force.
Following the suppression of the 1857 Revolt, the British implemented a thorough reorganization of the army in India. The primary objective was to ensure that a similar uprising could never happen again. To achieve this, the British implemented a policy of 'divide and rule,' balancing different castes and communities within regiments to prevent unity. They also significantly increased the proportion of European soldiers and ensured that key strategic units, such as the artillery, were managed exclusively by British troops. These changes were intended to create a reliable and carefully controlled military force that would remain loyal to British colonial authority.

246. (D) Laid down the general principles for the development of local self-governing institutions.
Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution on local self-government is considered a landmark in Indian administrative history because it provided a formal framework for developing local representative institutions. The resolution laid down general principles, such as having a majority of elected members on local boards and reducing official control. While it did not immediately grant full autonomy or mandate elections everywhere, it established the foundation upon which future local governing bodies were built. By emphasizing the role of local bodies as a

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235. (B) It led to the end of Company rule and major administrative and policy changes by the British Crown.
The Revolt of 1857 was a major turning point in Indian history, leading to significant and long-term changes in British colonial policy. Its most immediate and impactful result was the formal end of the East India Company's rule and the assumption of direct control by the British Crown through the 1858 Act. This shift brought about a major restructuring of the administration, a reorganization of the army, and a significant change in the British relationship with the princely states. These reforms were intended to stabilize British authority and prevent future uprisings, shaping the nature of the Raj.

236. (C) Help in the efficient administration of a colonial state and its commercial interests.
The evolution of the judiciary under the East India Company was driven by the practical needs of governing a vast and growing colonial empire. The British aimed to replace the diverse and often localized traditional legal systems with a more structured and predictable framework. A regularized judicial administration, eventually supported by codified laws, provided the legal stability necessary for managing the complex political and revenue affairs of the state. Furthermore, a uniform legal system was essential for facilitating modern trade and protecting the commercial interests of the Company, ensuring that administration served its colonial and economic objectives.

237. (D) Decentralization and association of Indians in local administration.
The principle of local self-government, as promoted by Lord Ripon in the 1880s, was an important step toward administrative decentralization in India. By establishing local boards and municipalities with elected members, the reform aimed to associate Indians more directly with the administration of their own localities. This system was intended to shift some of the responsibilities for services like health, education, and sanitation to local bodies. This association was seen as a way to decentralize power and provide a training ground for Indians in the principles of representative governance within the colonial administrative framework.

238. (A) A process of calculated, gradual concessions to rising nationalist pressure.
The series of constitutional reforms passed in 1909, 1919, and 1935 can be seen as a consistent British strategy to manage the growing nationalist movement in India. Each reform introduced limited concessions, such as increasing the number of Indians in councils or granting provincial autonomy, in response to rising demands for self-government. However, these changes were carefully designed to maintain ultimate British control over essential matters like finance and defense. By providing gradual and limited participation, the British hoped to satisfy moderate elements of the nationalist movement while preserving the foundation of their colonial rule in the subcontinent.

239. (B) Trade and commerce, which later led to political ambitions
The term "European Traders" refers to the various companies and individuals who arrived in India starting from the late fifteenth century, beginning with the Portuguese. Their initial and primary motivation was to engage in the lucrative trade in spices, textiles, and other valuable goods. As these companies established trading posts and competed for influence, they became increasingly involved in local Indian politics and conflicts to protect and expand their commercial interests. This commercial competition and involvement in local affairs eventually transformed their role from simple traders to organizations with significant political and territorial ambitions, particularly in the case of the British.

240. (B) The aggressive application of policies like the Doctrine of Lapse
The final phase of British territorial expansion was largely completed under the administration of Lord Dalhousie through the aggressive application of various policies. While the British still engaged in warfare, Dalhousie is most famous for using administrative means to annex several Indian states. The Doctrine of Lapse was a key strategy, allowing the British to take control of any princely state where the ruler died without a natural male heir. By denying the traditional right of adoption, Dalhousie annexed significant states like Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi, bringing

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methodology ensures that different perspectives are compared and combined to form a balanced historical account.

254. (D) document public opinion, social discourses, and political debates.
Newspapers from the modern period function as a significant repository for capturing the prevailing spirit of the times. They are essential for documenting the evolution of public opinion, tracking intense political debates, and analyzing social discourses. By examining these publications, researchers can understand the contemporary reactions and societal values that shaped historical events during the colonial era.

255. (C) present a more subjective and individual viewpoint.
Personal accounts like biographies and memoirs differ significantly from archival records due to their inherent nature. While official documents focus on state administration, these personal writings provide subjective and individual perspectives on historical figures and events. They complement official narratives by offering humanized viewpoints and personal reflections that illustrate the complexities of human experiences in history.

256. (B) Engaging in the spice trade and challenging the Portuguese.
Early Dutch commercial activities in India were primarily centered on the highly profitable spice trade. They focused their efforts on securing a foothold in spice-rich regions, which directly challenged the maritime dominance previously established by the Portuguese. This competitive focus was a hallmark of their commercial ventures during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as they sought economic gains.

257. (D) transcended commerce and involved military and political conflict.
The competition between the French and the British was unique because it extended far beyond simple commercial rivalry. This intense struggle escalated into significant military confrontations and political maneuvering as both powers sought absolute supremacy. Their interactions were marked by the establishment of fortified posts and active participation in local politics to secure strategic advantages over each other.

258. (A) effective integration of commercial, military, and political strategies.
British dominance over other European powers resulted from a superior ability to combine different methods of expansion. They successfully integrated their commercial interests with robust military strength and astute political tactics. This synergy allowed them to effectively navigate the complexities of the Indian subcontinent, eventually transforming their status from a trading company into a major political entity.

259. (C) bases for both commercial and military activities.
European companies established fortified trading posts as dual-purpose installations throughout the subcontinent. These structures functioned as vital hubs for managing their expanding commercial operations while also serving as strategic military bases. This infrastructure allowed the companies to protect their trade interests and project military power as they became increasingly involved in the region's political and territorial affairs.

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260. (A) gradual shift from commercial traders to political powers.
The British presence in India underwent a profound evolution over several centuries. Their role transitioned through a gradual process that moved from acting as mere commercial traders to becoming potent political actors. This transformation was not immediate but rather an incremental development that laid the groundwork for their eventual imperial control and the establishment of a centralized dominion.

261. (D) an incremental process involving multiple methods.
The growth of British power in India was an incremental and multifaceted process that occurred over nearly two centuries. It was not a single, pre-planned event but rather a series of developments involving various tactics. These included military conquests, strategic alliances, and diplomatic pressure, which collectively allowed the British to transform from commercial entities into a territorial empire.

262. (B) The creation of subsidiary states to exert indirect control.

establishment of a new apex of authority located in London. This included the creation of the positions of the Secretary of State for India and the India Council, which provided the ultimate oversight for the administration.

280. (D) It retained and systemized the existing framework for imperial rule.
The administrative system established under the British Crown did not completely replace the previous structure. Instead, it retained the essential central and provincial frameworks that had been developed by the East India Company. These existing systems were further rationalized and systematized to serve the goals of direct imperial rule, resulting in a more organized and hierarchical governance method.

281. (A) The Civil Service
The Civil Service is famously described as the 'steel frame' of the British Empire in India. Originally starting with commercial functions, it evolved into a highly organized administrative corps. These officials were responsible for the daily tasks of governance and the critical process of revenue collection, providing the stability and structure necessary to maintain long-term British authority.

282. (B) to maintain law and order and suppress dissent.
The organized police force under the British administration was established as a uniformed and hierarchical body. Its primary objective was to ensure the maintenance of law and order throughout the territories. Furthermore, it served as a crucial instrument for state control by suppressing dissent and maintaining the security required for the smooth functioning of colonial administrative policies.

283. (B) the establishment of a dual and sometimes complex court system.
The development of the judiciary during the colonial period was marked by the creation of a dual system of courts. This evolution involved attempts to codify laws and establish a clear hierarchy of judicial authority across the provinces. However, the process often resulted in a complex and sometimes conflicting legal environment, as different traditions and administrative needs interacted.

284. (A) It was the ultimate guarantor of British power for defense and internal security.
The army served as the ultimate guarantor of British authority within the Indian subcontinent. Composed of both British soldiers and a large number of Indian sepoys, the military was essential for protecting the borders against external threats. Additionally, it played a vital role in maintaining internal security and suppressing any domestic challenges to the stability of the administration.

285. (C) the supreme and ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown over Indian rulers.
The doctrine of Paramountcy became the guiding principle for the relationship between the British Crown and the various Princely States. This policy asserted that the British Crown held supreme and ultimate sovereignty over all Indian rulers. Under this framework, princely rulers were positioned in a subordinate status, acknowledging the British as the paramount power within the empire.

286. (D) Administrative and financial compulsions to decentralize certain services.
The introduction of local self-government was primarily motivated by administrative and financial necessity rather than democratic ideals. The central government aimed to decentralize the management of local services like sanitation and education. This shift was designed to relieve the financial pressure on the imperial exchequer by allowing local bodies to manage their own funding for essential services.

287. (C) raise local taxes for local services to relieve the imperial budget.
British authorities created municipalities and district boards to establish a system for raising local revenue. By empowering these bodies to collect taxes specifically for local needs, the administration made services like public health and education financially self-sustaining. This strategy was a practical measure to reduce the overall financial burden on the central imperial budget while maintaining administrative functions.

288. (B) The franchise was highly restricted, limiting participation.

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the overarching goal was always to assert British dominance. This flexible approach allowed the colonial power to effectively manage and subordinate a wide variety of regional rulers.

271. (C) Heavy land revenue assessments.
Economic grievances played a significant role in fueling the widespread discontent that led to the Revolt of 1857. Key factors included the systematic disruption of traditional Indian industries and the continuous economic drain of wealth. Most importantly, the imposition of heavy land revenue assessments placed an immense financial burden on the rural population, contributing to deep-seated resentment.

272. (B) The introduction of cartridges greased with animal fat.
The immediate catalyst that ignited the Revolt of 1857 was the introduction of new rifle cartridges. These specific cartridges were rumored to be greased with animal fat, which deeply offended the religious beliefs of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. This provocation acted as the final spark for a rebellion that had been building due to long-standing grievances.

273. (D) war of independence.
The nature of the Revolt of 1857 remains a topic of significant academic discussion and diverse interpretation. Some historians describe it as a localized sepoy mutiny, while others view it as a much more organized and broader national uprising. Many interpret the event as an early war of independence, reflecting a collective effort to end British rule.

274. (A) The transfer of governance from the Company to the British Crown.
The most consequential political outcome of the 1857 uprising was the fundamental change in how India was governed. It led to the immediate termination of the East India Company's administrative role. Power was transferred directly to the British Crown, which established a new system of direct imperial administration and prompted a major reorganization of the military and civil services.

275. (C) undermine traditional Indian society.
Widespread social and religious anxieties prior to the 1857 revolt were driven by the perception of British interference. Many Indians feared that official policies and missionary activities were specifically designed to undermine traditional societal structures and religious practices. This deep-seated fear of forced cultural change and conversion created a climate of suspicion that significantly contributed to the eventual rebellion.

276. (A) It grew in an ad-hoc manner to serve commercial needs.
During the period of the East India Company's rule, the administrative system did not follow a pre-planned design. Instead, it evolved in an ad-hoc manner, primarily shaped by the changing commercial and territorial requirements of the company. This flexible structure was developed over time to effectively manage revenue collection and ensure the protection of its expanding economic interests.

277. (D) To increase the British Parliament's control over the Company.
The British Parliament passed various charter and regulating acts to exert greater authority over the East India Company's operations in India. These legislative measures were designed to progressively increase official oversight and reduce the company's autonomy. By establishing these legal frameworks, the British government sought to ensure that the company's activities remained aligned with the broader interests of the state.

278. (B) the gradual strengthening of central authority over provinces.
Under the governance of the East India Company, the relationship between different levels of administration was characterized by increasing centralization. While distinct provincial structures existed in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, the power of the central authority was gradually strengthened. This shift was intended to ensure uniformity in policy implementation and to maintain strict control over military and revenue.

279. (C) The creation of a new apex of authority in London under the Crown.
After the transfer of power to the Crown in 1858, a major administrative restructuring took place. The most significant change was the

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A fundamental instrument used during the expansion of British influence was the creation of subsidiary states. This policy enabled the British to exert significant political and military control over various regions without the immediate necessity of direct administration. It served as a highly effective mechanism for neutralizing potential rivals and gradually absorbing territories into the imperial framework.

263. (C) It started from coastal bases and moved progressively inland.
The expansion of British territorial control followed a distinct geographical pattern across the Indian subcontinent. It initially radiated outwards from the primary commercial and administrative bases located in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay. From these coastal footholds, British power moved progressively into the Indian hinterland, resulting in an uneven but steady progression that eventually covered a vast area.

264. (D) replacement of regional polities with a centralized imperial structure.
The ultimate result of the long-term expansion of British authority was a total transformation of the subcontinent's political landscape. Numerous regional kingdoms and diverse polities were systematically subordinated or replaced by a single, centralized imperial structure. This consolidation solidified British dominion and created a unified administrative framework that governed India under a centralized authority for many decades.

265. (A) a flexible strategy adapting military, diplomatic, and administrative tactics.
British territorial growth was propelled by a flexible and adaptive strategy that utilized a wide range of methods. The administration successfully combined direct military force with clever diplomacy and innovative administrative tactics, such as the use of pretexts for annexation. This multifaceted approach allowed them to respond to specific local circumstances and overcome diverse challenges posed by Indian rulers.

266. (B) Bengal
The relationship between the British and Bengal was pivotal in the formation of the colonial empire. This interaction evolved rapidly from purely commercial interests to direct political and territorial control following significant military victories. Consequently, Bengal became the cornerstone of British power, providing the necessary resources and a strategic base for further expansion throughout the entire Indian subcontinent.

267. (B) intense military conflict.
British interactions with Mysore and the Punjab were notably different from their engagement with Hyderabad due to the high level of resistance encountered. While Hyderabad accepted a subsidiary alliance, Mysore and the Sikh kingdom in the Punjab required intense military conflict to be subdued. These regions were only brought under British control through several hard-fought and decisive wars.

268. (A) A subsidiary alliance that made it a client state.
The British managed their relationship with the state of Hyderabad primarily through the implementation of a subsidiary alliance. This strategic arrangement successfully secured the loyalty of Hyderabad as a client state within the imperial system. Although this provided the state with some internal stability, it simultaneously eroded its actual sovereignty and placed it under significant British political influence.

269. (C) the use of administrative pretexts for political gain.
The annexation of Oudh serves as a clear historical example of how the British utilized administrative pretexts to achieve political objectives. After maintaining a long and interventionist relationship, the territory was officially taken over based on claims of chronic misgovernance. This move highlighted the willingness of British authorities to use non-military justifications to expand their direct territorial control.

270. (D) The consistent goal of asserting British dominance through varied strategies.
The various interactions between the British and different Indian states were connected by a single, consistent objective. Regardless of whether they used direct military conquest, complex subsidiary alliances, or political manipulation,

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The system of local self-government faced several significant limitations that restricted its impact. One major constraint was the highly restricted franchise, which meant that only a small, propertied elite could participate in the process. Additionally, these local bodies operated under the strict supervision of British officials and possessed very limited financial resources and administrative powers to enact changes.

289. (D) served as a training ground for future nationalist leaders.
Despite its many limitations and restricted scope, the system of local self-government had an unintended consequence. It provided a modern administrative and political arena where Indians could gain practical experience. Consequently, these local bodies inadvertently served as a training ground for individuals who would later become prominent leaders in the growing nationalist movement against British colonial rule.

290. (A) The passage presents the 'political education' claim as a front for financial and administrative motives.
While British officials officially justified local self-government as a form of 'political education' for Indians, the reality was different. The actual purpose behind this initiative was driven by practical financial and administrative motives. The goal was to delegate the costs of local services to the population, using the rhetoric of education to mask the necessity of decentralizing fiscal burdens.

291. (C) introduction of separate electorates for Muslims.
A key feature of the 1909 constitutional reforms was the introduction of separate electorates for the Muslim community. While these reforms increased Indian representation in legislative councils, the councils themselves lacked real power and remained advisory. This specific change had long-term political implications, as it institutionalized communal divisions within the representative system of the British colonial administration.

292. (A) The division of provincial subjects into 'transferred' and 'reserved' categories.
The 1919 reforms introduced a complex system known as dyarchy within the provincial governments. This system divided administrative subjects into two distinct categories: 'transferred' and 'reserved'. Indian ministers were given responsibility for transferred subjects, while British governors maintained total control over reserved subjects. This was a deliberate attempt to introduce limited responsible government while preserving ultimate British authority.

293. (D) the British governor.
Under the dyarchy system established in the 1919 reforms, 'reserved' subjects included critical areas of administration such as finance and law and order. These vital sectors were not managed by elected Indian ministers but remained under the direct and firm control of the British governor. This arrangement ensured that the most essential levers of power stayed with the authorities.

294. (B) It abolished dyarchy at the provincial level and introduced responsible government.
The Government of India Act of 1935 brought about significant changes to provincial administration by abolishing the system of dyarchy. In its place, it introduced provincial autonomy and a more responsible form of government led by Indian ministers. However, this shift was accompanied by various safeguards and overriding powers that allowed British officials to maintain their ultimate strategic control.

295. (C) To ensure that ultimate power remained with the British authorities.
The inclusion of extensive 'safeguards' and overriding powers in the 1935 Act served a strategic purpose for the British. These provisions ensured that despite the introduction of provincial autonomy, ultimate authority remained with the Viceroy and the governors. By making democratic functions contingent on British approval, the colonial administration successfully preserved its paramountcy within a modern framework.

296. (D) politically dividing the nationalist movement.
The 1909 reforms introduced separate electorates as a strategic response to specific communal demands. While this addressed certain concerns, it also had the long-term effect of

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politically dividing the nationalist movement. By institutionalizing communal representation, the British were able to manage growing political pressure while simultaneously creating divisions that would impact the future course of the struggle for independence.

297. (A) As a form of limited power-sharing to test self-governance without risking core interests.
Dyarchy is interpreted as an experimental form of limited power-sharing designed by the British. By transferring control over less critical departments like education and health, the administration could claim to be advancing self-rule. However, this strategy ensured that core interests remained protected, allowing the colonial power to test the capabilities of Indian politicians without surrendering fundamental control.

298. (B) To ensure the fundamental levers of power remained with the British.
Critical administrative areas such as finance and the police were categorized as 'reserved' subjects under the dyarchy system. This classification was intended to ensure that the most important levers of power remained securely in British hands. By maintaining control over these essential sectors, the colonial administration could effectively oversee the governance of the provinces regardless of Indian ministerial actions.

299. (B) preserve ultimate British authority by making democratic functions contingent on their approval.
The 'safeguards' built into the 1935 Act functioned as a sophisticated mechanism to preserve ultimate British authority. These provisions gave governors and the Viceroy discretionary powers that made the operation of democratic institutions contingent on their final approval. Consequently, the new constitutional framework allowed for a degree of Indian participation while ensuring that the final decision-making power remained British.

300. (A) A strategic, calibrated response to grant limited concessions while maintaining ultimate control.
The sequence of constitutional reforms from 1909 to 1935 reflects a consistent British strategy. This approach involved providing a series of calibrated responses to the increasing pressure from the nationalist movement. By granting limited concessions through various acts, the British aimed to satisfy certain demands while carefully ensuring that ultimate imperial control and paramountcy were maintained throughout the process.

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CHAPTER 08
Colonial Economy and Indian Society

1. Which of the following best describes the change in the composition of India's exports under British colonial rule?
(A) An increase in the export of finished manufactured goods.
(B) A shift towards the export of raw materials and foodstuff.
(C) A decline in the export of both raw materials and manufactured goods.
(D) A diversification of exports into high-technology products.

2. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The expansion of agriculture under British rule was primarily driven by the needs of the domestic Indian market.
Statement II : The commercialization of agriculture led to a focus on cash crops, often at the expense of food crops.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

3. Which of the following was NOT a major modern industry that saw growth during the later phase of British rule?
(A) Cotton textiles
(B) Jute
(C) Shipbuilding
(D) Iron and Steel

4. The concept of 'de-urbanisation' in the context of the early colonial economy refers to:
(A) The migration of people from rural areas to newly established cities.
(B) The planned development of new urban centres by the British.
(C) The government policy of relocating industries away from populous cities.
(D) The decay and decline of traditional urban centres famous for their crafts and industries.

5. What was the primary purpose of the 'canal system' developed by the British in India?
(A) To promote inland water transport for trade.
(B) To supply drinking water to newly developed urban areas.
(C) To provide a reliable source of irrigation for commercial crops.
(D) To control floods in major river basins.

6. Match List I with List II regarding land revenue settlements in colonial India.
List I: (Land Revenue Settlement)
P. Permanent Settlement
Q. Ryotwari Settlement
R. Mahalwari Settlement
S. Malguzari System
List II: (Primary Feature)
1. Direct settlement with individual cultivators (ryots).
2. Revenue fixed in perpetuity with Zamindars.
3. Settlement with the village community or estate (mahal).
4. Revenue settlement with revenue farmers in Central Provinces.
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

7. Which of the following statements about 'rural indebtedness' in colonial India is incorrect?
(A) It was exacerbated by high land revenue demands and rigid collection methods.
(B) The commercialization of agriculture often forced peasants to borrow for inputs.
(C) A complex legal system introduced by the British often favored the moneylender.

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(D) The government introduced widespread, effective cooperative credit societies that eliminated the problem.

8. Identify the correct pair regarding British legislation concerning labor.
(A) Workmen's Compensation Act (1923) - Granted compensation for employment-related injuries.
(B) First Factories Act (1881) - Regulated working hours for all categories of male workers.
(C) Indian Trade Unions Act (1926) - Declared all trade union activities illegal and punishable.
(D) Mines Act of 1901 - Prohibited the employment of women in all underground excavation work.

9. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The introduction of railways in India significantly altered the direction of trade.
Reason (R) : Railways facilitated the movement of bulk goods from the hinterlands to the ports for export and imported goods from ports to the interior.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

10. The emergence of 'landless labour' as a distinct class in colonial India was a consequence of:
(A) The dispossession of peasants from their land due to debt and revenue arrears.
(B) The government's policy of promoting collective farming.
(C) A rapid increase in industrial employment drawing labor from agriculture.
(D) The success of land-to-the-tiller reform movements.

11. Which of the following explains the concept of 'Economic Drain' as articulated by early Indian nationalists?
(A) The decline of India's traditional handicraft industries due to competition.
(B) The high salaries and allowances paid to British officials serving in India.
(C) The cost incurred by India in maintaining the large British Indian Army.
(D) The transfer of wealth to Britain for which India got no proportionate return.

12. Consider the following statements about Christian missionary activities in colonial India:
P. They engaged in a critique of Indian social and economic practices.
Q. Their activities were strictly limited to religious conversion and did not include education.
R. They played a significant role in establishing new educational institutions.
S. They received no support or protection from the colonial government.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P and R only
(B) Q and S only
(C) P, Q and R only
(D) R and S only

13. What was a key feature of the 'new education' policy promoted by the colonial government?
(A) Emphasis on vernacular languages as the sole medium of instruction at all levels.
(B) Promotion of indigenous systems of knowledge over Western sciences.
(C) Use of the English language as the primary medium for higher education.
(D) A focus on vocational and technical training for the masses.

14. The 'Indian Renaissance' primarily refers to:
(A) A political movement for complete independence from British rule.
(B) An economic movement focused on reviving traditional industries.
(C) A military movement to restore pre-colonial dynasties.
(D) A period of socio-religious reforms and intellectual awakening.

15. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The emergence of a new 'middle class' was a significant social outcome of colonial policies and the new education system.
Statement II : This middle class was predominantly rural and engaged in traditional

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agricultural pursuits.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

16. One of the main objectives of 'caste associations' that emerged during the colonial period was:
(A) To reinforce traditional caste hierarchies and untouchability.
(B) To seek upward social mobility and access to new opportunities.
(C) To demand the abolition of all caste distinctions immediately.
(D) To advocate for a return to a pre-colonial village economy.

17. Arrange the following British legislative actions concerning women in chronological order:
1. Abolition of Sati
2. Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act
3. Age of Consent Act
4. Sharda Act (Child Marriage Restraint Act)
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

18. The 'Nationalist Discourse' on the 'Women's Question' often framed female education and reform as:
(A) A way to create better mothers and wives who would strengthen the nation.
(B) A means to make women economically independent and challenge patriarchy.
(C) A step towards the total Westernization of the lifestyle of Indian women.
(D) An issue of secondary importance compared to immediate political goals.

19. Which technological innovation was most instrumental in shaping journalistic activity and public opinion in 19th-century India?
(A) The telegraph
(B) The railway
(C) The printing press
(D) The radio

20. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The commercialization of agriculture did not uniformly benefit all peasants in colonial India.
Reason (R) : It increased the dependence of peasants on moneylenders and merchants, often leading to indebtedness and loss of land.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

21. Which of the following statements about the impact of the World Wars on the Indian economy is correct?
(A) Both wars led to a significant decline in industrial production in India.
(B) Britain's war debt to India was immediately paid in full after World War II, boosting the Indian economy.
(C) The wars created demand that stimulated certain sectors of Indian industry, like steel and textiles.
(D) The wars resulted in a decrease in prices and inflation within India.

22. The term 'de-industrialisation' in the context of 19th-century India primarily signifies:
(A) The decline of modern factory industries established by the British.
(B) The ruin of traditional handicraft industries and the displacement of artisans.
(C) The government's policy to prevent industrial growth in India.
(D) The shift of the workforce from the industrial to the service sector.

23. Consider the following aspects related to the British colonial monetary policy in India:
P. It aimed to create a uniform currency system across British Indi(A)
Q. The exchange rate was often manipulated to benefit British trade interests.
R. It prioritized the financial needs of the Indian population over the colonial stat(E)
S. The policy was designed to be completely independent of the British monetary system.
T. It linked the Indian rupee to the British

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pound sterling.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P, Q, and T only
(B) Q, R, and S only
(C) P, S, and T only
(D) R, S, and T only

24. The 'new features of town planning' in colonial urban centres like New Delhi were characterized by:
(A) The creation of spacious, segregated Civil Lines for the European population.
(B) A focus on mixed land use and high-density housing for all social classes.
(C) The integration of native and European populations in shared residential zones.
(D) The preservation and promotion of traditional indigenous architectural styles.

25. The primary focus of early 'Factory Legislation' in India, such as the Act of 1881, was on:
(A) Improving wages and providing social security for all workers.
(B) Granting workers the right to form trade unions.
(C) Regulating the working conditions of child labourers.
(D) Enforcing equal pay for male and female workers.

26. Match List I with List II regarding reform movements and their founders.
List I: (Reform Movement/Association)
P. Brahmo Samaj
Q. Arya Samaj
R. Ramakrishna Mission
S. Prarthana Samaj
List II: (Key Figure/Founder)
1. Swami Vivekananda
2. Dayananda Saraswati
3. Atmaram Pandurang
4. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

27. Government policy towards famines in the late 19th century, following the establishment of Famine Codes, emphasized:
(A) Free and unconditional distribution of food grains to all affected people.
(B) Non-interference, based on the principle of laissez-faire.
(C) The mandatory procurement of food grains from unaffected provinces.
(D) The provision of relief work for able-bodied persons and gratuitous relief for others.

28. Which of the following was a defining characteristic of many tribal movements during the British period?
(A) They were always non-violent in nature.
(B) They were often directed against the destruction of their traditional land and forest rights by outsiders (dikus).
(C) They sought to overthrow British rule and establish a modern democratic republic.
(D) They were primarily led by the educated middle class.

29. The critique of Indian social practices by Christian missionaries often focused on all the following, EXCEPT:
(A) The caste system and untouchability.
(B) The practice of Sati and child marriage.
(C) The joint family system.
(D) Idol worship and polytheism.

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30. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The development of modern science and technology in colonial India was largely a state-sponsored enterprise aimed at serving colonial needs.
Statement II : Institutions were established for fields like geological survey, botanical survey, and medicine to support economic exploitation and administrative control.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

31. The term 'caste mobility' in the colonial context refers to the process by which:
(A) Caste groups attempted to improve their position in the social hierarchy through

various means.
(B) Individuals could freely change their caste affiliation at will.
(C) The government legally abolished the caste system.
(D) All caste groups achieved equal social and economic status.

32. What was the constitutional position of women in British India regarding the right to vote?
(A) Women were granted universal adult franchise from the beginning of the 20th century.
(B) Limited and qualified franchise was gradually extended to women, largely based on property and education.
(C) No woman, regardless of property or education, could vote.
(D) Only women belonging to royal families were granted the right to vote.

33. The 'modernisation of Indian languages' during the colonial era was significantly influenced by:
(A) The strict imposition of English, which led to the decline of all literary activity in Indian languages.
(B) The adoption of new literary forms like the novel, short story, and prose essays.
(C) A revival of purely classical Sanskrit and Persian literary traditions.
(D) The complete rejection of Western literary influences by Indian authors.

34. A reorientation in painting during the colonial period involved:
(A) A synthesis of Western techniques (like oil painting and perspective) with Indian themes and styles.
(B) The complete abandonment of all Indian themes and subjects.
(C) A government-mandated return to ancient mural painting techniques.
(D) The universal adoption of abstract art across India.

35. The introduction of the Post and Telegraph system in India primarily served the purpose of:
(A) Promoting social communication among the Indian populace.
(B) Generating revenue through personal and commercial correspondence.
(C) Facilitating rapid administrative and military communication for the colonial state.
(D) Connecting rural villages with each other.

36. Which of the following statements about 'peasant movements' in colonial India is incorrect?
(A) They were often protests against high land revenue, rent, and exploitation by zamindars and moneylenders.
(B) Their objectives were often specific and local rather than a complete overthrow of the colonial state.
(C) They sometimes used religious and social idioms to mobilize support.
(D) They were always organized and led by national-level political parties.

37. The growth of a 'new urban society' in colonial cities led to:
(A) The complete breakdown of caste and community identities.
(B) A decrease in urban problems like overcrowding and sanitation issues.
(C) The emergence of new social classes like professionals, clerks, and industrial workers.
(D) The preservation of the traditional village-based social structure within the city.

38. Consider the following statements regarding the colonial trade policy:
P. It promoted free trade for British goods entering Indi(A)
Q. It imposed heavy protective tariffs on Indian goods entering Britain.
R. The direction of trade shifted, making Britain the primary partner for India's foreign trad(E)
S. It encouraged the development of a self-sufficient Indian economy.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P, Q, and R only
(B) Q and S only
(C) P and S only
(D) P, Q, R, and S

39. The most significant consequence of the 'commercialization of agriculture' for the Indian peasant was:
(A) Increased food security and self-sufficiency

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at the village level.
(B) Liberation from the control of moneylenders and traders.
(C) A uniform increase in prosperity for all categories of cultivators.
(D) Integration into the wider capitalist world market, making them vulnerable to price fluctuations.

40. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The British industrial policy in India was not aimed at fostering genuine and independent industrialization.
Reason (R) : The policy was geared towards serving the interests of British manufacturing and maintaining India as a market and source of raw materials.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

41. What does 'gender identity' in the context of the nationalist discourse on women refer to?
(A) The legal definition of a person as male or female based on biology.
(B) The movement for women to adopt male roles in colonial Indian society.
(C) The construction of ideal roles for Indian women in contrast to other models.
(D) The biological and physical differences observed between men and women.

42. Which of the following was a major 'urban problem' in the newly growing colonial cities?
(A) Extreme housing shortages, poor sanitation, and inadequate water supply.
(B) Under-population and labor shortage.
(C) Excessive green spaces and parks.
(D) Lack of commercial and business opportunities.

43. The development of 'public health and medicine' by the colonial government was primarily motivated by:
(A) A humanitarian concern for the health of the general Indian population.
(B) The pressure from Indian social reformers.
(C) A desire to completely replace indigenous medical systems.
(D) The need to keep the army and the British civilian population healthy.

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44. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The early labour and trade union movements in India were often led by nationalists and philanthropists rather than by the workers themselves.
Statement II : The colonial government consistently supported the trade union movement as a means to empower the working class.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

45. The architectural style of major colonial urban centers like Bombay and Calcutta is best described as:
(A) A pure replication of traditional Indian styles.
(B) Exclusively modern and minimalist.
(C) A blend of Indo-Saracenic, Gothic, and Neoclassical elements.
(D) Based entirely on Mughal architectural principles.

46. What was a primary cause of the decline of traditional artisans during colonial rule?
(A) A voluntary shift by artisans to more profitable agriculture.
(B) The government's ban on the production of handicrafts.
(C) The lack of raw materials for their crafts.
(D) The disappearance of patronage from Indian rulers and nobles.

47. Arrange the following events related to the colonial economy in chronological order:
1. Introduction of Railways in Indi(A)
2. Establishment of the first successful cotton textile mill in Bombay.
3. Opening of the Suez Canal.

4. Appointment of the first Fiscal Commission.
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

48. Christian missionary activities in the realm of education were significant because they:
(A) Exclusively educated converts to Christianity.
(B) Were the first to introduce education for girls and marginalized sections of society.
(C) Focused only on religious and theological studies.
(D) Taught only in Latin and English, ignoring vernacular languages.

49. Identify the incorrect pair regarding socio-religious reform movements.
(A) Brahmo Samaj - Monotheism and rationalism.
(B) Aligarh Movement - Opposition to modern scientific education.
(C) Arya Samaj - "Go back to the Vedas".
(D) Theosophical Society - Revival of ancient Indian religious philosophy.

50. Match List I with List II regarding British legislation and their subjects.
List I: (Legislation)
P. Indian Penal Code, 1860
Q. Age of Consent Act, 1891
R. Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926
S. Sharda Act, 1929
List II: (Subject)
1. Legal status for trade unions
2. Raised the marriageable age for girls
3. Codification of criminal law
4. Raised the age for consummation of marriage
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

51. The introduction of new 'land rights' by the British led to:
(A) The strengthening of communal ownership of land.
(B) The elimination of the role of the state in land revenue collection.
(C) The concept of private property in land, which could be bought, sold, and mortgaged.
(D) A uniform system of land ownership across all of India.

52. The term 'landless labour' refers to a class of people who:
(A) Owned land but chose to work on others' farms.
(B) Were artisans who had lost their traditional occupations.
(C) Were nomadic tribes who did not practice settled agriculture.
(D) Were agricultural workers who did not own the land they cultivated.

53. Consider the following statements about the development of communication in British India:
P. The Post & Telegraph systems were introduced primarily for public welfar(E)
Q. The main goal was to facilitate quick movement of military and administrative information.
R. These systems helped in maintaining control over a vast territory.
S. The cost of using these services was kept low to encourage use by the rural poor.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P and S only
(B) Q and R only
(C) P, Q and R only
(D) Q, R and S only

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54. The 'modernisation of literary forms' in colonial India is exemplified by the rise of:
(A) The epic poem (Mahakavya) as the dominant form.
(B) Prose narratives like the novel and the short story.
(C) Oral storytelling traditions.
(D) Devotional poetry (Bhakti Kavya).

55. The British 'currency and exchange' policy was often criticized for:
(A) Refusing to link the Indian rupee to any international standard.
(B) Creating a shortage of currency by not minting enough coins.
(C) Allowing multiple currencies to circulate freely in British India.
(D) Maintaining a high exchange rate that

favored British imports.

56. Which of the following statements about 'women's organisations' in the colonial period is correct?
(A) They were often founded and led by women from the new educated middle class.
(B) They were primarily focused on securing political independence.
(C) They exclusively addressed the problems of rural peasant women.
(D) They rejected any legislative intervention by the colonial state in social matters.

57. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The printing press played a crucial role in the formation of an all-India public opinion.
Reason (R) : It enabled the rapid dissemination of ideas, critiques of colonial policy, and nationalist sentiments across different regions of India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

58. One of the major factors contributing to 'rural indebtedness' was:
(A) The inflexible and high land revenue demand of the colonial state.
(B) The peasants' habit of extravagant spending.
(C) The high productivity and profitability of agriculture.
(D) The easy availability of interest-free loans from the government.

59. The government's response to epidemics like plague and cholera was often met with public resistance because:
(A) The government refused to provide any medical aid.
(B) The government blamed the epidemics on Indian religious practices.
(C) The medical treatments offered were deliberately ineffective.
(D) The sanitary and quarantine measures were often intrusive and culturally insensitive.

60. Consider the following aspects of the changing socio-economic conditions of artisans in colonial India:
P. Loss of traditional patronage from princely courts.
Q. Stiff competition from machine-made imported goods.
R. A shift to agriculture as landless labourers.
S. Increased prosperity due to access to new European markets.
T. Government support through subsidies and protective tariffs.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P, Q, and R only
(B) S and T only
(C) P, S, and T only
(D) Q, R, and S only

61. The 'English language' was promoted in higher education by the British administration based on the belief that it would:
(A) Help in the revival of classical Indian languages like Sanskrit and Persian.
(B) Promote unity among Indians by replacing diverse vernacular languages.
(C) Create a class of Indians who were Western in intellect and morals.
(D) Make the Indian population eligible to vote in British general elections.

62. The 'Nationalist Discourse' on the economy focused on themes like:
(A) Praising the economic benefits of British rule.
(B) The need for greater integration with the British economy.
(C) The success of British industrial policy in India.
(D) Economic drain, de-industrialization, and poverty.

63. Which of the following was NOT a feature of the new urban centres that grew under British rule?
(A) The seamless integration of European and Indian residential areas.
(B) The presence of a cantonment and a 'Civil Lines' area.
(C) The growth of new municipal and administrative institutions.
(D) Their function as major centres of administration and commerce.

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64. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The major modern industries in colonial India, like cotton and jute, were concentrated in a few specific regions.
Statement II : This regional concentration was a result of a planned government policy to ensure balanced industrial development across the country.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

65. The primary purpose of introducing 'road transport' development under the British was to:
(A) Facilitate tourism and leisure travel.
(B) Serve military, administrative, and commercial needs, often complementing the railways.
(C) Connect all villages in India with a network of all-weather roads.
(D) Promote the automobile industry in India.

66. Which one of the following was a major critique of Indian religious beliefs by Western observers and missionaries?
(A) Its perceived polytheism and idol worship.
(B) Its emphasis on monotheism.
(C) Its rational and scientific outlook.
(D) Its lack of complex philosophical traditions.

67. The 'emergence of the middle class' is most closely associated with:
(A) The expansion of traditional occupations like farming and artisanal work.
(B) The rise of the old zamindari and aristocratic families.
(C) The growth of opportunities in colonial administration, law, teaching, and other professions.
(D) The influx of European professionals into Indian society.

68. The concept of 'caste mobility' during the British period was often pursued through a process known as:
(A) Westernization
(B) Industrialization
(C) Urbanization
(D) Sanskritization

69. In the context of the 'Women's Question', what was the significance of British legislation concerning women?
(A) It represented a complete and radical break from all patriarchal control.
(B) It was enacted without any pressure or debate from Indian reformers.
(C) It served as a legal tool for social reformers to challenge certain oppressive customs.
(D) It granted women equal political and economic rights as men.

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70. Match List I with List II regarding historical movements and examples.
List I: (Type of Movement)
P. Peasant Uprising against planters
Q. Tribal Revolt against outsiders (dikus)
R. Movement against revenue hike
S. Social Banditry
List II: (Example)
1. Santhal Rebellion (1855-56)
2. Deccan Riots (1875)
3. Indigo Rebellion (1859-60)
4. Activities of Kallar and Maravar communities
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

71. Journalistic activity in 19th-century India was characterized by:
(A) Unconditional support for all government policies.
(B) A complete lack of interest in political and social issues.
(C) Its circulation being limited only to British officials.
(D) A vibrant and critical press in both English and vernacular languages.

72. The term 'reorientation in music and performing arts' refers to:
(A) The emergence of new public performance contexts like ticketed concerts and proscenium theatre.

107. Which of the following was a key feature of the socio-religious reform movements?
(A) A complete rejection of the West.
(B) A blind imitation of the West.
(C) A call to restore the political authority of religious leaders.
(D) A synthesis of Western ideas like rationalism with a reformed understanding of Indian traditions.

108. Which of these was a significant 'women's organisation' formed during the freedom struggle?
(A) The Brahmo Samaj
(B) The All India Women's Conference (AIWC)
(C) The Arya Samaj
(D) The Servants of India Society

109. The growth of journalistic activity was often met with repressive measures from the colonial government, such as the:
(A) Charter Act of 1813
(B) Rowlatt Act of 1919
(C) Vernacular Press Act of 1878
(D) Government of India Act of 1935

110. Match List I with List II regarding social legislation and the relevant Governor-General or Viceroy.
List I: (Social Legislation)
P. Abolition of Sati
Q. Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act
R. Age of Consent Act, 1891
S. Ilbert Bill Controversy
List II: (Governor-General/Viceroy)
1. Lord Lansdowne
2. Lord Dalhousie
3. Lord William Bentinck
4. Lord Ripon
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

111. Consider the following consequences of the introduction of railways for the Indian economy:
P. It facilitated the commercialization of agricultur(E)
Q. It aided the penetration of British manufactured goods into the interior markets.
R. It linked the raw material producing areas with the export ports.
S. It stimulated the growth of ancillary indigenous industries on a large scal(E)
T. It was financed primarily through Indian capital.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P, Q, and R only
(B) S and T only
(C) P, Q, S, and T only
(D) P, Q, R, S and T

112. The term 'Factory Legislation' in British India refers to laws enacted to:
(A) Promote the establishment of new factories.
(B) Regulate working conditions, hours, and employment of certain categories of workers in factories.
(C) Provide subsidies and financial support to factory owners.
(D) Nationalize all major industries.

113. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The new urban centres developed by the British were characterized by racial segregation and hierarchical planning.
Reason (R) : The town planning and architecture were designed to reflect and reinforce the power and superiority of the colonial rulers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

114. Tribal movements were often 'messianic' or 'revivalist' in character, meaning they:
(A) Were led by leaders claiming divine sanction to end their people's suffering.
(B) Sought to negotiate with the British for improved administrative and political roles.
(C) Demanded the rapid introduction of modern Western education and industrial jobs.
(D) Aimed to establish a competitive capitalist economy within their ancestral territories.

115. The 'reorientation in painting' in the colonial period saw the emergence of new schools like the Bengal School of Art, which sought to:

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were forced into low-paying occupations.
(C) The government provided them with alternative employment schemes.
(D) They successfully modernized their crafts to compete with machine-made goods.

82. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The British industrial policy aimed at creating a 'lopsided' pattern of industrialization in India, focusing on a few select sectors.
Statement II : The policy discouraged the growth of heavy industries and capital goods sectors to avoid competition with British industries.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

83. The early 'Labour and Trade Union Movements' were often constrained by:
(A) Strong and consistent support from the colonial government.
(B) Lack of any grievances among the industrial workforce.
(C) Opposition from factory owners and a largely repressive state machinery.
(D) The high literacy and political consciousness of the entire workforce.

84. The establishment of the Reserve Bank of India in 1935 marked a significant step in the evolution of:
(A) Road Transport policy
(B) Factory Legislation
(C) Land Settlement policy
(D) Monetary Policy and Banking

85. A key 'urban problem' associated with colonial cities was the stark contrast between:
(A) Industrial and residential areas.
(B) The commercial centres and the administrative centres.
(C) The well-planned, sanitary European quarters and the congested, neglected Indian parts of the city.
(D) The old city and the newly developed suburbs.

86. Which of the following best describes the colonial government's policy towards epidemics in the early 19th century?
(A) Proactive and preventive healthcare for the entire population.
(B) A general policy of non-intervention and neglect.
(C) A focus on indigenous healing practices.
(D) The establishment of a nationwide network of public hospitals.

87. Peasant movements in colonial India are best understood as:
(A) A uniform, centrally-directed struggle for independence.
(B) Unsuccessful attempts to restore the pre-colonial political order.
(C) Movements led by urban intellectuals with little peasant participation.
(D) A series of localised struggles with specific economic grievances.

88. The educational activities of Christian missionaries often resulted in:
(A) The growth of a small, educated group of Indians who were exposed to Western ideas.
(B) A decline in literacy rates.
(C) The complete replacement of vernacular languages by English.
(D) The closing down of all indigenous schools.

89. The promotion of 'Science, Technology, Public Health & Medicine' by the British was part of a broader ideology of:
(A) Preserving India's traditional knowledge systems.
(B) Ensuring equal access to modern facilities for all.
(C) Demonstrating the superiority of Western civilization.
(D) Limiting India's access to any modern knowledge.

90. The concept of a 'Constitutional Position' for women began to emerge through:
(A) The demands raised by women's organisations for political representation

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and legal rights.
(B) The automatic grant of equal rights by the colonial government.
(C) The restoration of traditional laws that gave women high status.
(D) The complete withdrawal of women from public life.

91. Match List I with List II regarding terms and their descriptions.
List I: (Term)
P. Dikus
Q. Ryot
R. Mahal
S. Economic Drain
List II: (Description)
1. An individual peasant cultivator
2. Outsiders (moneylenders, traders) in tribal areas
3. Unrequited transfer of wealth
4. A revenue village or estate
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

92. The 'modernisation of Indian languages' was facilitated by the printing press through:
(A) The exclusive printing of books in English.
(B) The standardization of grammar and script for vernacular languages.
(C) The suppression of regional dialects.
(D) The focus on printing only religious texts.

93. The impact of the World Wars on the Indian economy included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Massive war-related expenditure leading to inflation.
(B) A boost to some Indian industries due to increased demand.
(C) A decrease in India's public debt.
(D) A large accumulation of sterling balances in India's favour.

94. What was the primary motivation for the British to invest in the 'railway and road transport' network in India?
(A) To promote passenger comfort and tourism.
(B) To facilitate the social and cultural integration of the Indian people.
(C) To fulfill a long-standing demand from the Indian public.
(D) To serve the strategic, administrative, and economic interests of the Empire.

95. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Socio-religious reform movements of the 19th century, known as the Indian Renaissance, were crucial for the making of modern India.
Reason (R) : They challenged traditional orthodoxies, promoted rationalism and humanism, and laid the intellectual foundations for the later nationalist movement.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

96. Identify the correct statement regarding 'land settlements' in colonial India.
(A) The Permanent Settlement was introduced all over India.
(B) The Mahalwari system was prevalent in the North-Western Provinces and parts of Central India.
(C) In the Ryotwari system, the settlement was made with the village community.
(D) All land settlements successfully improved the economic condition of the cultivators.

97. The 'Economic Drain' was most forcefully and systematically articulated for the first time by:
(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Dadabhai Naoroji
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru
(D) Lord Curzon

98. Consider the following statements related to the British approach towards modernism in India:
P. It was a comprehensive project to modernize all aspects of Indian society.
Q. The push towards modernism was selective, focusing on areas beneficial to colonial rul(E)
R. Development in science and technology was encouraged only in applied fields like survey and medicin(E)
S. The government actively promoted

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modernism in Indian social customs and family structures.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) P and S only
(B) Q and R only
(C) P, Q and R only
(D) Q, R and S only

99. The growth of new 'caste associations' in the colonial period was a response to:

(A) A directive from the British government to organize society along caste lines.
(B) The complete breakdown of the caste system.
(C) The opportunities and challenges presented by the colonial socio-economic structure.
(D) The influence of Christian missionaries who promoted caste-based organizations.

100. The debate on the 'Women's Question' among Indian nationalists and reformers revolved around:

(A) The universal agreement on granting women complete autonomy.
(B) The extent and nature of reform needed, often balancing modernity and tradition.
(C) The rejection of education for women as a corrupting influence.
(D) The specific strategy for implementing social reforms without radical disruption.

101. Arrange the following institutions/events in chronological order of their establishment/ occurrence:

1. Establishment of the Brahmo Samaj
2. Establishment of the Arya Samaj
3. Swami Vivekananda's Chicago Address
4. Founding of the Ramakrishna Mission

(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 1, 2, 4, 3

102. The term 'de-urbanisation' refers to the decline of cities like:

(A) Bombay, Calcutta, Madras
(B) Murshidabad, Surat, Dacca
(C) New Delhi, Shimla, Darjeeling
(D) Kanpur, Jamshedpur, Ahmedabad

103. Read the given statements and select the correct option.

Statement I : The primary direction of India's foreign trade during the colonial period was reoriented towards Britain and the British Empire.

Statement II : This shift was a natural economic development independent of colonial policies.

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

104. The 'expansion and commercialization of agriculture' had a significant impact on land rights, leading to:

(A) Land becoming a commodity that could be easily transferred, often leading to peasant dispossession.
(B) The strengthening of the cultivator's traditional rights.
(C) The abolition of all intermediaries between the state and the peasant.
(D) A reduction in land revenue demand.

105. The 'critique of Indian social and economic practices' by colonial officials and missionaries was often used to:

(A) Promote genuine social equality in India.
(B) Encourage Indian independence.
(C) Justify British rule over India under the guise of a 'civilizing mission'.
(D) Understand and appreciate the complexities of Indian society.

106. The main objective of the New Education policy, as articulated in Macaulay's Minute, was to:

(A) Form a class of persons to act as interpreters between the rulers and the ruled.
(B) Promote traditional Indian learning and sciences among the indigenous population.
(C) Provide comprehensive primary education for the masses in their vernacular languages.
(D) Encourage specialized technical training for balanced and sustainable industrial growth.

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(B) The complete replacement of Indian forms with Western classical music and theatre.
(C) The government's banner on all traditional forms of music and dance.
(D) A decline in all forms of artistic expression.

73. The Famine Commission of 1880, under Sir Richard Strachey, was a direct outcome of the:
(A) Bengal Famine of 1943.
(B) Deccan Riots of 1875.
(C) Great Famine of 1876-78.
(D) Indigo Rebellion of 1859.

74. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The colonial government's forest policies were a major cause of tribal movements.
Reason (R) : These policies restricted tribal access to forests and forest produce, disrupting their traditional livelihood and way of life.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

75. The 'contact with Christianity' led to which of the following in Indian society?
(A) A wholesale conversion of the Indian population to Christianity.
(B) The complete eradication of all Indian religious beliefs.
(C) A government policy of promoting Hinduism over Christianity.
(D) A process of internal reflection and reform within Hindu and other Indian religious traditions.

76. Arrange the following land revenue settlements in their chronological order of introduction:
1. Ryotwari Settlement
2. Permanent Settlement
3. Mahalwari Settlement
(A) 2, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3
(C) 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 3, 1

77. The development of 'public health' infrastructure in colonial India, such as vaccination programs, was often aimed at preventing:
(A) Chronic lifestyle diseases.
(B) Malnutrition among the rural poor.
(C) Outbreaks of epidemics that could disrupt trade and administration.
(D) Mental health issues in urban areas.

78. Which of the following statements regarding the 'Indian Renaissance' is incorrect?
(A) It involved a critical evaluation of traditional Indian society.
(B) It drew inspiration from both Western rationalism and ancient Indian scriptures.
(C) It led to the establishment of several socio-religious reform associations.
(D) It was a purely religious movement with no social dimension.

79. The changing 'composition' of India's foreign trade in the colonial period meant a shift from:
(A) Exporting finished textiles to exporting raw cotton.
(B) Exporting raw cotton to exporting finished textiles.
(C) Importing food grains to exporting food grains.
(D) Importing bullion to exporting bullion.

80. Consider the following statements about the state of 'irrigation' in colonial India:
P. The British invested heavily in large-scale canal irrigation projects.
Q. These projects were often concentrated in regions producing valuable cash crops.
R. The government provided irrigation water for free to all cultivators.
S. Traditional irrigation systems like tanks and wells fell into disuse in many areas.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P, Q, and S only
(B) R and S only
(C) P and R only
(D) P, Q, R, and S

81. What was the main socio-economic impact of the decline of traditional industries on artisans?
(A) They were absorbed into new modern industries at high wages.
(B) They became increasingly impoverished and

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(A) Perfectly imitate European academic art.
(B) Focus exclusively on portraiture of British officials.
(C) Create a modern art form that was uniquely Indian in spirit and theme.
(D) Revive the mural traditions of Ajanta only.

116. The concept of 'Economic Drain' did NOT include which of the following components?
(A) Home Charges, which included salaries and pensions of British officials.
(B) Profits made by British capitalists on their investments in India.
(C) Costs of the India Office in London.
(D) British investment in Indian infrastructure like railways and canals.

117. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The volume of India's foreign trade increased significantly during the colonial period.
Statement II : This increased volume of trade primarily benefited the Indian economy and led to widespread prosperity.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

118. The Ryotwari settlement, where the state made a settlement directly with the cultivator, did not prevent rural indebtedness because:
(A) The revenue was fixed permanently at a low rate.
(B) The revenue demand was often very high and rigidly collected, forcing ryots to borrow from moneylenders.
(C) The state provided all necessary credit for agriculture.
(D) It abolished private property in land.

119. A major 'urban problem' in colonial cities was the lack of adequate municipal services for the Indian population, which was a result of:
(A) The Indian population's refusal to pay taxes.
(B) The absence of any qualified Indian municipal engineers.
(C) The rapid decline in urban populations.
(D) The financial and administrative neglect of Indian localities by the colonial authorities.

120. Which of the following statements about the development of 'public health and medicine' in colonial India is correct?
(A) Medical colleges were established to train Indians primarily to serve in lower-level subordinate roles in the medical services.
(B) The government made a concerted effort to integrate Western medicine with Ayurveda and Unani.
(C) Research was focused on diseases prevalent in the Indian population rather than those affecting Europeans.
(D) Modern healthcare facilities were equally accessible to all sections of society.

121. The 'Indian Renaissance' is so-called because it represented:
(A) A rebirth of classical artistic styles.
(B) A political movement to restore a Hindu kingdom.
(C) A period of intense intellectual and cultural ferment and a questioning of the past.
(D) An economic boom based on industrialization.

122. Which of the following best describes the 'Constitutional Position' of women by the end of British rule?
(A) The attainment of limited franchise and some personal law reforms, but still far from equality.
(B) A position of legal subordination with no political rights.
(C) Full equality with men in all legal, political, and economic spheres.
(D) A regression in status compared to the pre-colonial period.

123. The 'modernisation of literary forms' saw the vernacular languages being used for:
(A) Only religious and mythological subjects.
(B) Only for official government communication.
(C) Only for poetry in classical meters.
(D) Political commentary, social critique, and realistic fiction.

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explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

197. The phrase 'journalistic activity and the public opinion' implies a relationship where:
(A) The press was a tool for the government to control public opinion.
(B) Public opinion existed independently of any media or journalistic activity.
(C) The press reflected and shaped the views of a section of the public, creating a new political force.
(D) Journalistic activity was purely for entertainment and had no impact on public opinion.

198. The 'Irrigation and Canal System' built by the British often had negative ecological consequences, such as:
(A) Decrease in soil fertility.
(B) Water-logging and increased salinity in the soil.
(C) Increased frequency of droughts.
(D) Improvement in the ground water table.

199. The changing socio-economic conditions of artisans included:
(A) An increase in their social status.
(B) Their ability to form powerful guilds to protect their interests.
(C) Government financial aid to modernize their skills.
(D) Their transformation from independent producers to dependent wage laborers.

200. Consider the following key ideas associated with the Indian Renaissance:
P. A belief in monotheism and rejection of polytheism.
Q. A critique of the caste system.
R. Advocacy for women's education and widow remarriag(E)
S. An emphasis on rationalism and humanism.
T. A call to return to the political structure of the Vedic perio(D)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) P, Q, and T only
(B) P, Q, R, and S only
(C) S and T only
(D) P, Q, R, S, and T

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201. The 'nature of factory legislation' shows a pattern where legislative action often followed:
(A) The spontaneous collective demands of the Indian factory workers.
(B) The overarching humanitarian concerns of the central colonial government.
(C) Pressure from rival British manufacturers and official commissions of inquiry.
(D) The historic establishment of a new socialist government within Britain.

202. The development of banking in colonial India was characterized by:
(A) The coexistence of European-style 'Presidency Banks' and traditional indigenous bankers.
(B) The dominance of Indian-owned banks from the very beginning.
(C) A focus on providing agricultural credit to small peasants.
(D) The absence of any central banking authority until 1947.

203. The term 'urban problems' in the context of colonial India includes all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Overcrowding and growth of slums.
(B) Poor sanitation and public health crises.
(C) Racial tension and segregation.
(D) Lack of employment opportunities.

204. The government's policy towards epidemics was often hampered by:
(A) The cooperation of the local population.
(B) Financial constraints and the prioritization of other administrative expenses.
(C) A lack of scientific knowledge about the causes of disease.
(D) The effectiveness of indigenous medicine.

205. The 'critique of Indian social and economic practices' by missionaries and officials was often based on:
(A) A deep and sympathetic understanding of Indian culture.
(B) The principles of religious pluralism.
(C) The standards and values of 19th-century Victorian Britain.

planning principles.
(C) A space that was equally accessible to all races and classes.
(D) A symbol of imperial power and permanence.

133. The colonial government's policy towards famines evolved over time from ad-hoc measures to a systematic policy embodied in:
(A) The Permanent Settlement.
(B) The Factory Acts.
(C) The Famine Codes.
(D) The Indian Councils Acts.

134. Which of the following is a prominent example of a tribal movement in colonial India?
(A) The Deccan Riots
(B) The Birsa Munda Uprising
(C) The Indigo Rebellion
(D) The Pabna Agrarian Leagues

135. The critique of Indian society by Christian missionaries provided an impetus for:
(A) The British government to ban missionary activities.
(B) A widespread movement to convert to Christianity.
(C) The complete rejection of all Western education by Indians.
(D) Indian social reformers to address issues like caste and the status of women.

136. The 'Wood's Despatch' of 1854 is considered the 'Magna Carta' of English education in India because it:
(A) Proposed a systematic educational system from primary to university level.
(B) Recommended the closure of all existing indigenous vernacular schools.
(C) Strictly restricted the access of modern education to only the upper classes.
(D) Implemented English as the absolute and sole medium of instruction at all levels.

137. Which of the following was NOT a major theme of the socio-religious reform movements (Indian Renaissance)?
(A) The abolition of Sati and child marriage.
(B) The promotion of widow remarriage and women's education.
(C) The advocacy for the restoration of princely states.
(D) The critique of idolatry and polytheism.

138. The 'Nationalist Discourse' on the women's question was often paradoxical because it:
(A) Advocated for women's education but within the confines of their domestic roles.
(B) Demanded political rights for women while opposing social reforms.
(C) Called for the complete westernization of Indian women.
(D) Ignored the issue of women's rights entirely.

139. The emergence of public opinion as a significant force in colonial India was most closely tied to the growth of:
(A) The railway network.
(B) The telegraph system.
(C) The colonial bureaucracy.
(D) The vernacular and English press.

140. Consider the following factors related to the colonial economy:
P. Commercialization of agricultur(E)
Q. Development of railways.
R. De-industrialization.
S. Economic Drain.
T. A new land revenue system.
Which of the above factors contributed to the impoverishment of the Indian peasantry?
(A) P, R, and S only
(B) Q and R only
(C) P, R, S, and T only
(D) P, Q, R, S, and T

141. The 'reorientation in painting' during the colonial era included the popularization of:
(A) Mughal miniatures
(B) Cave murals
(C) Company Painting (Patna Kalam)
(D) Abstract expressionism

142. The change in the 'direction of trade' under colonial rule meant that India's trade was increasingly oriented towards:
(A) East Asian countries
(B) The United States and Latin America
(C) Russia and Central Asia
(D) Britain and other countries of the British Empire

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(B) P, Q, and R only
(C) S only
(D) P, Q, R, and S

161. The architectural style known as 'Indo-Saracenic' was a fusion of:
(A) Greek and Roman styles.
(B) Indian, Islamic, and Western elements.
(C) Chinese and Indian styles.
(D) Purely Gothic and Neoclassical styles.

162. A major cause of peasant movements in colonial India was:
(A) The eviction from land and the high rates of rent demanded by zamindars.
(B) The high prices they received for their crops.
(C) The lack of moneylenders to provide credit.
(D) The support they received from the colonial police.

163. Christian missionaries' critique of 'religious beliefs' in India, such as polytheism, was part of a larger encounter that led to:
(A) The immediate adoption of monotheism by all Indians.
(B) The British government outlawing Hinduism.
(C) Defensive and reformist responses from Indian religious leaders.
(D) A decline in missionary activities.

164. The development of 'public health & medicine' by the British was often concentrated in:
(A) Rural areas and villages.
(B) Temple towns and pilgrimage sites.
(C) Tribal and forest regions.
(D) Urban centers, cantonments, and civil lines.

165. The term 'women's question' arose in the 19th century to denote:
(A) The question of women's suffrage in Britain.
(B) A movement for women to join the army.
(C) The debate and discourse surrounding the status and reform of the condition of women in Indian society.
(D) The issue of female infanticide only.

166. Which one of the following correctly describes the impact of the printing press?
(A) It strengthened the oral traditions of knowledge transmission.
(B) It democratized the spread of information beyond a small circle of elites.
(C) It was used exclusively by the colonial government for propaganda.
(D) It led to a decline in literacy.

167. The commercialization of agriculture refers to:
(A) The cultivation of crops for family consumption.
(B) The use of modern machinery in farming.
(C) The distribution of land to all cultivators.
(D) The cultivation of crops for sale in the market rather than for self-use.

168. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The decline of traditional handicraft industries was a key feature of the colonial economy in the 19th century.
Statement II : This decline was caused by the loss of patronage and competition from machine-made goods, a process often termed de-industrialization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

169. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The early phase of factory legislation was rudimentary, focusing mainly on child labour and limited hours for women.
Statement II : This early legislation was applicable to all forms of labour, including agriculture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

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(D) A is false but R is true.

151. The introduction of English education had the unintended consequence of:
(A) Completely eradicating illiteracy in India.
(B) Making Indians loyal supporters of British rule.
(C) Destroying all Indian languages.
(D) Fostering a sense of national unity among the educated elite from different regions.

152. The emergence of a new 'middle class' was significant for the nationalist movement because:
(A) It provided the primary leadership for the movement.
(B) It sided with the British against the nationalists.
(C) It was a predominantly rural class that mobilized the peasants.
(D) It consisted of traditional aristocrats who had lost power.

153. Consider the following characteristics of 'caste mobility' movements:
P. Adoption of customs and rituals of higher castes.
Q. Formation of associations to petition for better jobs and social status.
R. Creation of origin myths that claimed a higher status.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) P only
(B) Q only
(C) P and R only
(D) All of the above

154. The 'Sarda Act' of 1929 was a legislative measure concerning:
(A) The restraint of child marriage.
(B) Women's right to property.
(C) The prohibition of Sati.
(D) The right of widows to remarry.

155. The 'public opinion' shaped by the press in colonial India was primarily the opinion of the:
(A) Entire Indian population.
(B) British officials in India.
(C) Rural peasantry and tribal communities.
(D) Educated middle class and urban elites.

156. The development of modern Indian literary forms was a move 'towards modernism' characterized by:
(A) The exclusive use of religious themes.
(B) A focus on individual psychology and social realism.
(C) The imitation of medieval European literary styles.
(D) A rejection of prose in favour of poetry.

157. Which of the following was NOT a major feature of the change in the composition of India's trade?
(A) Increase in the export of raw materials like cotton and jute.
(B) Decrease in the export of traditional manufactured goods like textiles.
(C) Increase in the export of heavy machinery from India.
(D) Increase in the import of finished goods from Britain.

158. The concept of 'landless labour' grew in significance during the colonial period due to:
(A) The success of agricultural production.
(B) High wages in the agricultural sector.
(C) Government schemes to promote wage labour.
(D) The dispossession of small peasants and ruined artisans.

159. Which of these statements about 'de-urbanisation' in 19th-century India is correct?
(A) It was accompanied by the rise of new colonial port cities.
(B) It affected all cities in India uniformly.
(C) It was a sign of economic prosperity and diversification.
(D) It was caused by the migration of people to rural areas in search of better jobs.

160. Consider the following statements about the British Monetary Policy in India:
P. It established a uniform coinage system.
Q. It manipulated the Rupee-Sterling exchange rate to benefit British interests.
R. It led to a series of currency crises in Indi(A)
S. It was designed to promote the growth of Indian-owned banks.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) P and Q only

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(D) Promote the growth of the indigenous automobile industry.

179. 'Urban problems' in colonial India were exacerbated by:
(A) The government's successful urban planning for the entire population.
(B) The decline in population in major cities.
(C) A massive influx of impoverished rural migrants seeking employment.
(D) The equitable distribution of resources like water and sanitation.

180. Consider the following statements about the government's policy towards famines:
P. Early British policy was guided by laissez-faire, leading to inaction.
Q. The Famine Commissions of the late 19th century led to the formulation of Famine Codes.
R. The Famine Codes established a system of relief works and gratuitous ai(D)
S. The Bengal Famine of 1943 was effectively managed by the British, preventing large-scale deaths.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) P and S only
(B) P, Q, and R only
(C) Q, R and S only
(D) S only

181. A common feature of many 'tribal and peasant movements' was that they were:
(A) Organized on modern lines with a formal leadership structure.
(B) Always successful in achieving their long-term goals.
(C) Often spontaneous, localised, and violent in their initial stages.
(D) Led exclusively by the educated middle class.

182. 'Contact with Christianity' and the activities of missionaries led to:
(A) An unchallenged acceptance of Christian doctrines.
(B) A process of introspection and re-evaluation of their own beliefs by Indian thinkers.
(C) The British government declaring Christianity the state religion of India.
(D) The closing of all Hindu and Muslim educational institutions.

183. The shift 'towards modernism' in India was characterized by:
(A) A complete and total break with the past.
(B) An indigenous movement with no external influence.
(C) A process that affected only the British residents in India.
(D) A selective adoption of Western ideas, institutions, and technologies.

184. The 'Caste Associations' that emerged during this period often focused on:
(A) Securing access to education and government jobs for their members.
(B) Reinforcing practices of untouchability.
(C) Demanding a return to the jajmani system.
(D) Promoting inter-caste marriages on a large scale.

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185. British legislation concerning women, such as the abolition of Sati, was significant because it:
(A) Was the first time a foreign power intervened in the social customs of India.
(B) Solved all problems faced by Indian women.
(C) Established the principle that the state could legislate on social reform.
(D) Was passed with the unanimous consent of the entire Indian population.

186. The phrase 'reorientation in performing arts' signifies:
(A) The adaptation of traditional performances to new venues like the urban stage.
(B) The death of all classical and folk forms.
(C) The exclusive patronage of Western opera and ballet by the colonial state.
(D) A government banner on public performances.

187. The changing 'volume and direction of trade' in colonial India is best summarized as:
(A) A decrease in volume and a shift towards Asia.
(B) A stable volume and direction throughout the period.
(C) An increase in volume and a shift towards America.
(D) An increase in volume and a shift towards Britain.

170. Match List I with List II regarding colonial economic items and their related sectors or policies.
List I: (Item)
P. Post & Telegraph
Q. Ryotwari
R. Economic Drain
S. Factory Act
List II: (Economic Sector/Policy)
1. Land Settlement
2. Labour Legislation
3. Nationalist Critique of Economy
4. Communications
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

171. The 'Famine Codes' developed by the British administration recommended:
(A) A policy of strict non-interference during famines.
(B) The free import of grain by private traders without any government role.
(C) The forced migration of people from famine-affected areas.
(D) The creation of a standing fund and specific procedures for declaring famine.

172. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The 'new education' policy of the British, with its emphasis on English, created a new social divide in India.
Reason (R) : It created a gap between the small minority of English-educated urbanites and the vast majority of the uneducated or vernacular-educated masses.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

173. The 'Indian Renaissance' led to the rise of reform movements that:
(A) Sought to completely abandon Indian culture and traditions.
(B) Were initiated and funded by the British government.
(C) Attempted to reform and rationalize Indian traditions in the light of modern ideas.
(D) Advocated for the restoration of the Mughal empire.

174. The growth of women's organisations was a significant aspect of the 'Women's Question' because they:
(A) Were created and controlled by the British government.
(B) Focused solely on religious activities.
(C) Were anti-nationalist in their outlook.
(D) Provided a platform for women to articulate their specific demands and upliftment.

175. The 'modernisation of Indian languages' included all the following EXCEPT:
(A) The exclusive use of Sanskrit for all literary expression.
(B) The development of prose writing.
(C) The adoption of new literary genres like the novel.
(D) The standardization of grammar and syntax.

176. What was the primary impact of the new 'land rights' on the village community?
(A) It strengthened the collective ownership and management of village resources.
(B) It weakened the traditional bonds of the village community by introducing individual property rights.
(C) It empowered the village panchayats to act as landlords.
(D) It led to a more equitable distribution of land within the village.

177. The 'major modern industries' that developed in India were characterized by:
(A) A strong capital goods base.
(B) A focus on consumer goods like textiles and sugar.
(C) Even distribution across the country.
(D) Being entirely state-owned enterprises.

178. The development of 'Railways and Road Transport' served to:
(A) Unify the country administratively and economically for colonial purposes.
(B) Isolate different regions of India.
(C) Primarily benefit the Indian masses for travel.

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143. Match List I with List II regarding concepts and their associated systems or policies in British India.
List I: (Concept)
P. Land as private property
Q. Regulated child labour
R. Civilizing mission
S. Uniform currency
List II: (Associated System/Policy)
1. New Education Policy
2. Monetary Policy
3. New Land Rights
4. Factory Legislation
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

144. The main cause of rural indebtedness in colonial India was:
(A) The peasants' lack of desire to work hard.
(B) The combination of high revenue demands, crop failures, and the peasants' need for credit for consumption and production.
(C) The absence of moneylenders in the rural economy.
(D) The low price of agricultural commodities.

145. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The major modern industries in India, such as cotton, jute, and steel, were largely owned by Indian capitalists.
Statement II : British industrial policy in India deliberately created space for and encouraged Indian-owned heavy industries from the very beginning.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

146. The All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was formed in 1920, marking a significant step in the organization of the:
(A) Labour and trade union movement
(B) Peasant movement
(C) Caste association movement
(D) Women's movement

147. Arrange the following developments in the correct chronological sequence:
1. Formation of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).
2. The first Factories Act.
3. Indian Trade Unions Act giving legal status to unions.
4. Workmen's Compensation Act.
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

148. The growth of new urban centres like hill stations (e.g., Shimla) was primarily for the purpose of:
(A) Promoting industrial development.
(B) Rehabilitating landless laborers.
(C) Establishing major religious centers.
(D) Serving as health resorts and summer capitals for the British rulers.

149. The 'Indian Society in Transition' signifies a period where:
(A) Traditional structures and norms were completely replaced by Western ones.
(B) Society remained static and unchanged by colonial rule.
(C) There was a complex interplay of continuity and change, with new ideas challenging old structures.
(D) There was a universal return to pre-colonial social norms.

150. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Many peasant and tribal movements, though directed against immediate exploiters, were also implicitly anti-colonial.
Reason (R) : The power of the local zamindars, moneylenders, and planters was often protected and upheld by the colonial state's administrative and legal machinery.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

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188. Which of the following was a direct consequence of the expansion and commercialization of agriculture?
(A) Increased food security for the poor.
(B) Regional specialization of crops based on market demand.
(C) Strengthening of the self-sufficient village economy.
(D) Reduction in the export of agricultural products.

189. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The British industrial policy after 1919, known as 'discriminating protection', offered some protection to Indian industries.
Statement II : This change in policy was a purely benevolent gesture to promote rapid Indian industrialization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

190. Match List I with List II regarding historical leaders and their key associated ideas or movements.
List I: (Leader/Reformer)
P. Dadabhai Naoroji
Q. Birsa Munda
R. Jyotiba Phule
S. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
List II: (Associated Movement/Idea)
1. Critique of caste and promotion of education for lower castes and women
2. Monotheism and abolition of Sati
3. 'Ulgulan' (Great Tumult) against colonial and feudal oppression
4. 'Drain of Wealth' theory
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

191. The primary role of the 'Post & Telegraph' system was to enhance the 'long-distance control' capability of:
(A) The colonial state.
(B) The village panchayat.
(C) The Indian merchants.
(D) The social reformers.

192. Which of the following statements about 'urban society' in colonial India is incorrect?
(A) It was highly stratified, with significant economic and social disparities.
(B) It was a homogenous society with no class or caste distinctions.
(C) It saw the emergence of new forms of association, like clubs and political groups.
(D) It included a growing class of industrial workers and professionals.

193. The primary target of most 'peasant movements' during the colonial era was:
(A) The British monarch in London.
(B) The immediate sources of oppression, such as zamindars, moneylenders, and planters.
(C) The neighboring villages.
(D) The Indian National Congress.

194. The 'New Education' policy of the government was critiqued by nationalists for:
(A) Its neglect of mass education and promotion of a literary education that produced clerks.
(B) Its emphasis on scientific and technical education.
(C) Its use of vernacular languages in primary schools.
(D) Its promotion of education for women.

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195. The 'emergence of the middle class' was a phenomenon primarily concentrated in:
(A) Rural and agricultural areas.
(B) Tribal and forest regions.
(C) Colonial urban centers.
(D) Princely states.

196. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Women's organisations in the early 20th century began demanding political rights, including the right to vote.
Reason (R) : The nationalist discourse, which glorified the role of women as mothers of the nation, automatically translated into political equality for them.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

124. The impact of the World Wars on the Indian economy can be best described as:
(A) Uniformly negative, causing a recession in all sectors.
(B) A contradictory process of stimulating some industries while causing widespread inflation and hardship.
(C) Wholly positive, leading to India's emergence as a major industrial power.
(D) Negligible, as India was insulated from the global conflicts.

125. Consider the following statements about tribal and peasant movements:
P. Peasant movements were primarily directed against the immediate exploiters like zamindars and moneylenders.
Q. Tribal movements were often a reaction to the encroachment on their lands and forests by outsiders.
R. Both types of movements were always non-violent and constitutional in their methods.
S. These movements were geographically widespread and not confined to specific regions.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) P and Q only
(B) R and S only
(C) P, Q and S only
(D) P, Q, R and S

126. The term 'gender identity' in the context of the 19th and 20th-century women's question refers to:
(A) The biological sex of a person.
(B) The legal recognition of a third gender.
(C) A woman's professional identity.
(D) The socially constructed roles, behaviours, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women.

127. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The introduction of the 'printing press' was a double-edged sword for the British.
Reason (R) : While it helped in administration, it also became a powerful tool for Indian nationalists to critique colonial rule and mobilize public opinion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

128. In the 'Ryotwari' land settlement system, the land revenue was:
(A) Fixed in perpetuity.
(B) Subject to periodic revision, usually upwards.
(C) Paid by the zamindar to the state.
(D) Collected in kind only.

129. The decline of artisans and de-urbanization in the early 19th century was a direct result of:
(A) A series of devastating famines and epidemics.
(B) The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the influx of cheaper manufactured goods.
(C) A voluntary migration of artisans to rural areas.
(D) The British policy of promoting Indian handicrafts.

130. The 'nature of Factory Legislation' in colonial India shows that the laws were:
(A) Enacted primarily due to pressure from Lancashire manufacturers who feared competition from cheap Indian labour.
(B) More comprehensive and pro-worker than contemporary laws in Britain.
(C) Focused on providing high minimum wages and social security benefits.
(D) Applied to all workplaces, including small-scale and cottage industries.

131. The 'Monetary Policy' of the colonial government, especially the rupee-sterling exchange ratio, was a key component of:
(A) The policy to encourage Indian industrial exports.
(B) The policy to protect the Indian economy from global fluctuations.
(C) The policy of economic drain.
(D) The policy to promote the welfare of Indian cultivators.

132. The 'new features of town planning' in cities like Lutyens' Delhi were meant to be:
(A) A model for low-cost, high-density housing.
(B) An integration of Mughal and British town

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(D) The writings of Indian social reformers.

206. Which of the following was NOT a level or content focus of the 'New Education' policy?
(A) University education in English.
(B) Primary education in vernacular languages.
(C) Education for creating a class of government functionaries.
(D) A systematic promotion of indigenous scientific traditions.

207. 'Caste mobility' was a complex process because:
(A) It often involved adopting the practices of higher castes while simultaneously challenging the old hierarchy.
(B) It was officially sponsored and encouraged by the British government.
(C) It always resulted in the complete dissolution of caste identity.
(D) It was a movement exclusively among the highest castes.

208. The 'Nationalist Discourse' used the 'Women's Question' to:
(A) Argue that India was socially backward and needed British rule.
(B) Project an image of a reformed and 'modern' nation worthy of self-rule.
(C) Demand the complete abolition of the family structure.
(D) Insist that the condition of women was perfect and needed no change.

209. The 'reorientation in music' saw the transition from:
(A) The use of Indian instruments to exclusively Western instruments.
(B) The private salon (mehfil) to the public concert hall.
(C) Vocal music to purely instrumental music.
(D) Classical music to folk music.

210. What was a primary reason for the shift towards commercial crops under the 'commercialization of agriculture'?
(A) The high revenue demand of the state forced peasants to grow cash crops to earn money.
(B) They required less water and effort.
(C) The government offered subsidies for growing them.
(D) A sudden change in the dietary habits of the Indian population.

211. Which of the following statements about the 'decline of industries' in colonial India is incorrect?
(A) It primarily affected traditional handicraft industries.
(B) It led to overcrowding in the agricultural sector.
(C) It was a uniform process that happened at the same time across all of India.
(D) It was accelerated by the policies of the colonial state.

212. The Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 was a landmark piece of 'labour legislation' because it:
(A) Mandated a specific high minimum wage for all industrial factory workers.
(B) Made strikes absolutely illegal and punishable under all circumstances.
(C) Established a nationalized system of social security for all laborers.
(D) Granted legal recognition and specific immunities to registered trade unions.

213. The main function of the 'railways' from the perspective of the colonial economy was:
(A) To foster national unity and cultural exchange.
(B) To provide cheap and comfortable transport for the Indian public.
(C) To serve as the primary channel for the 'Economic Drain'.
(D) To promote tourism in remote areas.

214. The growth of new 'urban centres' was often:
(A) A result of indigenous economic growth.
(B) Unplanned and chaotic in the areas inhabited by Indians.
(C) Based on principles of social and racial equality.
(D) Focused around religious sites.

215. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The government's policy towards epidemics and famines demonstrated the benevolent and welfare-oriented nature of the colonial state.
Statement II : The response was often inadequate, late, and primarily aimed at

was coercively commercialized. Peasants were compelled or induced to cultivate cash crops over subsistence crops, integrating the agrarian economy into the global capitalist market. This process, while increasing the volume of trade in specific commodities, made the rural economy highly vulnerable to international price fluctuations and disconnected agricultural production from local consumption needs, setting the stage for significant socio-economic distress in the countryside.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the paragraph, what was the primary change in the composition of Indian trade during the colonial period?
(A) A shift from exporting agricultural goods to manufactured items.
(B) A shift from exporting finished goods to supplying raw materials.
(C) A decrease in the overall volume of trade with all partners.
(D) An increase in trade of luxury goods within the Indian subcontinent.

252. The paragraph suggests that the reorientation of Indian trade was primarily aimed at:
(A) supporting the requirements of the British industrial economy.
(B) diversifying India's traditional commercial relationships.
(C) promoting a balanced and mutually beneficial trade partnership.
(D) integrating India into the global economy as an equal partner.

253. What was a direct consequence of the commercialization of agriculture as described in the source?
(A) It led to food self-sufficiency and prosperity for all peasants.
(B) It strengthened traditional agricultural practices and local markets.
(C) It made the Indian rural economy susceptible to global market volatility.
(D) It decreased the overall volume of agricultural output for export.

254. The passage implies a relationship between the changing direction of trade and:
(A) the growth of independent Indian merchant guilds.
(B) the establishment of new trade routes with Africa and America.
(C) the promotion of free trade policies by the colonial government.
(D) the deliberate marginalization of India's pre-existing trade networks.

255. Based on the source, the term 'captive market' for British manufactured products suggests that India was:
(A) a market where consumers had a wide choice of international goods.
(B) a protected market for Indian industries to flourish.
(C) an economic sphere compelled to absorb British industrial output.
(D) a region that voluntarily preferred British goods for their quality.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The British introduced new land settlements that fundamentally restructured agrarian society by redefining land rights. Systems like the Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari, and Mahalwari, while varying in administrative detail, uniformly aimed to maximize revenue extraction. These settlements often disregarded traditional community rights and created a new class of proprietors or gave individual property titles, which made land a saleable commodity. A direct consequence of these high-revenue-demand systems was the escalating problem of rural indebtedness. Peasants, unable to meet the fixed and often exorbitant demands, were forced to borrow from moneylenders at usurious rates, frequently leading to the loss of their land. This process contributed significantly to the growth of a class of landless labour, as dispossessed cultivators and artisans were forced into wage labour on farms. Concurrently, the colonial state undertook the development of an irrigation and canal system. However, this infrastructure was primarily geared towards supporting commercialized agriculture in specific regions to secure raw material supplies and enhance revenue. The benefits were unevenly distributed, and the high water rates often added to the peasant's financial burden, further entangling them in the cycle of debt and dependency.

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(C) The decline of commerce and trade in cities.
(D) The depopulation of major urban centers.

224. The term 'Sanskritization', often used to describe a form of 'caste mobility', refers to a process where:
(A) All castes abandon their traditions and adopt a Western lifestyle.
(B) Lower castes adopt the rituals, customs, and way of life of upper castes to claim a higher status.
(C) The government mandates the teaching of Sanskrit to all citizens.
(D) Castes engage in modern professions to improve their status.

225. The establishment of modern scientific institutions by the British, such as the Survey of India, was primarily driven by:
(A) A desire to promote pure scientific research among Indians.
(B) The need for mapping, resource extraction, and strategic information.
(C) The demands of Indian scientists.
(D) A philanthropic goal to educate the Indian masses in science.

226. Match List I with List II regarding social practices and the reformers who critiqued them or advocated for their abolition.
List I: (Social Evil)
P. Sati
Q. Untouchability
R. Child Marriage
S. Prohibition on Widow Remarriage
List II: (Key Reformer)
1. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
2. Harbilas Sarda
3. Mahatma Gandhi / (B)R. Ambedkar
4. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

227. The 'Nationalist Discourse' on the 'Women's Question' often created a new ideal of the Indian woman who was:
(A) Completely westernized in her dress and manners.
(B) Uneducated and confined to the home.
(C) Educated and modern, yet devoted to Indian domestic values.
(D) Politically active but socially traditional.

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228. The 'Expansion of Agriculture' into new areas was often at the cost of:
(A) Industrial land
(B) Urban settlements
(C) Desert areas
(D) Pasture lands and forests

229. The term 'Economic Drain' encompasses:
(A) The export of Indian raw materials.
(B) Foreign investment coming into India.
(C) The unilateral transfer of wealth from India to Britain.
(D) The profits made by Indian traders.

230. 'Major Modern Industries' like jute were geographically concentrated in and around:
(A) Bombay
(B) Calcutta
(C) Ahmedabad
(D) Madras

231. The 'Monetary Policy' of linking the rupee to the pound sterling at an artificially high rate had the effect of:
(A) Making Indian exports cheaper and more competitive.
(B) Making British imports into India more expensive.
(C) Benefiting Indian producers and manufacturers.
(D) Making Indian exports more expensive and British imports cheaper.

232. The government's policy during the famine of 1876-78 under Lord Lytton was widely criticized for:
(A) Its adherence to a rigid laissez-faire doctrine, which hindered effective relief.
(B) Excessive and extravagant relief expenditure.
(C) Forcing people to convert to Christianity in exchange for food.
(D) Importing too much grain, which led to a price crash.

233. The Moplah Rebellion of 1921 was a 'peasant movement' in Malabar that had complex characteristics, including:

(C) a deliberate policy to encourage Indian industrial growth.
(D) the competition from cheap, machine-made British goods.

262. What was a major socio-economic consequence for artisans who lost their livelihood?
(A) They were retrained in modern industrial skills by the government.
(B) They were forced to transition into agriculture as labourers.
(C) They migrated to Britain to work in factories.
(D) They formed successful cooperatives to compete with foreign goods.

263. The phenomenon of 'economic drain' as described in the source is characterized as:
(A) a balanced exchange of capital and goods between India and Britain.
(B) foreign investment in India leading to industrial development.
(C) a one-way transfer of Indian resources to Britain without equivalent return.
(D) the natural outcome of global trade and competition.

264. The paragraph suggests that 'de-urbanisation' in the early colonial period was linked to:
(A) the outbreak of epidemics in major urban centres.
(B) a government policy of relocating populations to rural areas.
(C) the development of new, modern-planned cities.
(D) the decline of traditional manufacturing towns.

265. How did the World Wars impact the Indian economy, as per the source?
(A) They caused inflation and shortages due to expenditure on the British war effort.
(B) They led to a period of unprecedented economic prosperity and stability.
(C) They resulted in a complete halt of the economic drain to Britain.
(D) They led to a significant decrease in the demand for Indian industrial goods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The British industrial policy in India was highly selective and primarily aimed at complementing, not competing with, British industries. While there was a decline in traditional crafts, the later colonial period saw the emergence of certain major modern industries like cotton textiles, jute, and steel, often financed and controlled by British or Indian capital. However, the overall industrial structure remained weak and lopsided, with a notable absence of heavy engineering and capital goods industries. To regulate working conditions in these new factories, the government introduced factory legislation. These laws, however, were often criticized as being inadequate and primarily enacted under pressure from British manufacturers who feared competition from Indian mills using cheap labour. The growth of an industrial workforce, though small, led to the gradual emergence of labour and trade union movements. These movements initially focused on improving wages and working conditions but gradually developed links with the broader nationalist movement. They articulated the grievances of the working class and organized strikes and protests, challenging both colonial authorities and factory owners, thereby adding a new dimension to the anti-colonial struggle.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What was the described nature of British industrial policy in India?
(A) It aimed to make India a leading global industrial power.
(B) It was selective and prevented competition with British industries.
(C) It was comprehensive and promoted all-round industrial development.
(D) It focused exclusively on reviving traditional handicrafts.

267. The paragraph suggests that the factory legislation introduced by the British was partly motivated by:
(A) genuine philanthropic concern for the Indian worker's welfare.
(B) pressure from British manufacturers fearing competition.
(C) the demands of the Indian nationalist leaders for labour rights.
(D) the desire to increase the efficiency of Indian factories.

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and a rejection of later accretions like idol worship.
(D) The adoption of Christianity.

244. The main vehicle for the 'Nationalist Discourse' on the 'Women's Question' was:
(A) Government reports.
(B) Christian missionary tracts.
(C) Traditional religious texts.
(D) The writings and speeches of nationalist leaders and reformers in journals and public forums.

245. The introduction of the 'Printing Press' in India led to:
(A) The decline of all written forms of communication.
(B) The strengthening of government control over information.
(C) The rise of a public sphere where political and social issues could be debated.
(D) A decrease in the number of books published.

246. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The development of road transport was planned to create a dense network connecting all of India's villages.
Statement II : The road network was primarily developed to supplement the railways, connecting them to hinterlands and strategic locations.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

247. The 'critique of Indian religious beliefs' by outsiders often failed to appreciate:
(A) The practice of Sati.
(B) The rigidity of the caste system.
(C) The prevalence of child marriage.
(D) The underlying philosophical and symbolic meanings behind practices like idol worship.

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248. The primary goal of the development of 'Science, Technology, Public Health & Medicine' was to serve the needs of:
(A) The colonial state and its personnel.
(B) The Indian scientific community.
(C) The rural poor.
(D) The industrial working class.

249. Which of the following correctly characterizes the relationship between 'journalistic activity and public opinion'?
(A) They were unrelated phenomena.
(B) Public opinion was exclusively shaped by government proclamations.
(C) Journalistic activity created a platform for the formation and expression of a nationalist public opinion.
(D) Journalistic activity only reported on international news and had no impact on Indian public opinion.

250. The term 'reorientation in performing arts' in colonial India is linked to:
(A) The creation of the modern, urban, proscenium stage.
(B) The complete disappearance of folk theatre.
(C) The state-sponsored revival of ancient dance forms only.
(D) The exclusive performance of Western plays.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The colonial economy initiated a profound transformation in the nature of Indian trade, fundamentally altering its composition, volume, and direction. Pre-colonial India, known for its export of finished goods like textiles, experienced a reversal of roles, becoming primarily a supplier of raw materials such as cotton, indigo, and jute, and a captive market for British manufactured products. This shift was not accidental but a deliberate consequence of policies designed to serve the interests of the British industrial economy. The direction of trade was reoriented, with Britain and its empire becoming the principal trading partners, marginalizing India's traditional commercial links. This restructuring was intrinsically linked to the expansion and commercialization of agriculture. To meet the demands of British factories, Indian agriculture

protecting colonial interests rather than providing comprehensive relief to the Indian population.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

216. The English language became a medium of 'towards modernism' in India by:
(A) Acting as a 'window to the West', providing access to modern scientific and political thought.
(B) Replacing all Indian languages.
(C) Being spoken by the entire population of India.
(D) Being the language of ancient Indian scriptures.

217. The 'Indian Renaissance' is termed as such because it signifies a 'rebirth' of:
(A) The ancient Indian political empire.
(B) The pre-colonial economic system.
(C) Critical inquiry and social consciousness.
(D) Traditional caste hierarchies.

218. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The colonial state passed several pieces of legislation concerning women, such as the Sati Regulation Act and the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act.
Reason (R) : These laws were passed solely due to the humanitarian initiative of the British rulers, without any role or pressure from Indian social reformers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

219. The growth of the printing press and journalistic activity contributed to the 'modernisation of Indian languages' by:
(A) Discouraging the use of vernacular languages in writing.
(B) Focusing only on reprinting ancient manuscripts.
(C) Limiting literary output to poetry and epic tales.
(D) Creating a new, standardized prose style suitable for journalism and essays.

220. Consider the following features of 'New Town Planning and Architecture' in colonial India:
P. Creation of segregated residential areas like Civil Lines and Cantonments.
Q. Introduction of European architectural styles like Gothic and Neoclassical.
R. Emphasis on wide, tree-lined roads and bungalows in European areas.
S. Use of architecture as a statement of imperial power.
T. Promotion of integrated housing schemes for Indians and Europeans.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) P, Q, R, and S only
(B) T only
(C) P, Q, and T only
(D) Q, R, S, and T only

221. The 'Economic Drain' theory argued that the constant flow of wealth to Britain was:
(A) A fair payment for the services provided by the British administration.
(B) A temporary phenomenon that would eventually benefit India.
(C) A major cause of India's poverty and economic backwardness.
(D) A myth created by anti-British propagandists.

222. The development of 'Communications – Post & Telegraph' was a key tool for:
(A) Fostering local self-governance.
(B) Promoting social interaction among the Indian masses.
(C) Ensuring the privacy of communication for all citizens.
(D) The political, military, and economic consolidation of the British Empire in India.

223. What was the most significant 'urban problem' arising from colonial urbanization?
(A) The creation of a highly unequal and segregated urban environment.
(B) A surplus of housing and civic amenities.

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Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What was a common objective of the different land settlements introduced by the British, according to the paragraph?
(A) To empower traditional village communities.
(B) To ensure the efficient extraction of state revenue.
(C) To reduce the financial burden on the peasantry.
(D) To distribute land equally among all cultivators.

257. The passage links the rise of rural indebtedness primarily to which factor?
(A) The failure of monsoon and natural calamities.
(B) The introduction of new, unfamiliar cropping patterns.
(C) The expansion of the irrigation and canal system.
(D) The imposition of high revenue demands by the state.

258. Which of the following is presented as a significant outcome of the new land policies and indebtedness?
(A) The emergence of a substantial landless labour class.
(B) The strengthening of community ownership of land.
(C) A marked decrease in agricultural productivity.
(D) The elimination of moneylenders from the rural economy.

259. According to the source, the development of the irrigation and canal system primarily served to:
(A) provide drought relief to all agricultural regions uniformly.
(B) reduce the overall cost of cultivation for small peasants.
(C) support the cultivation of cash crops for revenue and export.
(D) foster subsistence farming and local food security.

260. The paragraph implies that making land a 'saleable commodity' had which effect on the peasantry?
(A) It increased the risk of peasants losing their land due to debt.
(B) It empowered peasants by giving them a valuable asset to trade.
(C) It led to a more efficient and modern agricultural market.
(D) It stabilized land prices and reduced rural conflicts.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The colonial period witnessed a significant decline of traditional Indian industries, a process often termed de-industrialization. This decline was not uniform but was particularly devastating for artisan-based production, such as textiles. The influx of cheaper, machine-made goods from Britain, facilitated by colonial trade policies, undermined the competitiveness of local artisans. This economic dislocation resulted in profound changes in the socio-economic conditions of artisans, many of whom lost their traditional livelihoods and were pushed into agriculture, increasing the pressure on land. This process contributed to de-urbanisation in the early colonial period, as many traditional manufacturing towns and centres lost their economic vitality and population. A critical aspect of the colonial economic relationship was the phenomenon of the economic drain, which refers to the unilateral transfer of wealth and resources from India to Britain for which India received no proportionate economic or material return. This drain of wealth, occurring through various channels like official salaries, profits of private trade, and home charges, severely constrained capital formation within India. The Indian economy was further impacted by the two World Wars, which, while creating some demand for Indian industries, also led to massive expenditure from Indian revenues for the British war effort, inflation, and severe shortages, exacerbating economic hardship.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the paragraph, the decline of traditional Indian industries is primarily attributed to:
(A) the lack of skilled artisans in India.
(B) the artisans' unwillingness to adopt new technologies.

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finance.

274. The source argues that the development of communications like the post and telegraph system was fundamentally driven by:
(A) the strategic and commercial needs of the British Empire.
(B) the colonial government's desire to promote free speech and public opinion.
(C) the social need for connecting families across the country.
(D) a philanthropic mission to modernize Indian society.

275. What is the central argument of the paragraph regarding colonial infrastructure development?
(A) It was a selfless gift from Britain to modernize India.
(B) It was primarily driven by the welfare and needs of the Indian people.
(C) It was strategically designed to serve imperial control and economic exploitation.
(D) It was an unprofitable venture for the British government.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The colonial period witnessed the growth of new urban centres, which differed significantly from pre-colonial cities. While older cities often declined, new administrative capitals, port cities, and hill stations emerged, reflecting colonial priorities. These new urban spaces were characterized by new features of town planning and architecture. Typically, they exhibited spatial segregation, with spacious, well-planned 'Civil Lines' and 'Cantonments' for the European population, contrasting sharply with the congested, poorly serviced 'Black Towns' or native quarters. The architecture often sought to project imperial power, with grand public buildings blending European classical styles with some Indian motifs, a style sometimes referred to as Indo-Saracenic. Life in these new cities gave rise to a distinct urban society. This society was marked by new forms of social stratification and the emergence of a professional middle class. However, urbanization also brought new urban problems. The stark contrast between the European and Indian parts of the city in terms of sanitation, public health infrastructure, and amenities created significant social tensions and health crises. Overcrowding, poor housing, and inadequate water supply in the native quarters were persistent issues that the colonial municipal administrations often failed to address equitably, focusing resources on the European enclaves.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. A key feature of town planning in new colonial urban centres was:
(A) the spatial segregation between European and native residential areas.
(B) the equal distribution of civic amenities across all parts of the city.
(C) the integration of European and Indian populations in mixed neighbourhoods.
(D) the preservation and promotion of traditional Indian architectural styles.

277. The architecture of grand public buildings in colonial cities, as described, aimed to:
(A) showcase the superiority of purely Indian architectural forms.
(B) create functional buildings with no symbolic meaning.
(C) provide low-cost housing for the urban poor.
(D) project the power and permanence of the British Empire.

278. The 'urban problems' mentioned in the paragraph refer primarily to:
(A) the lack of industrial development in the new cities.
(B) overcrowding and poor sanitation in the Indian quarters.
(C) the high cost of living affecting the European population.
(D) the conflict between different European colonial powers.

279. The term 'Civil Lines' in the context of colonial urban planning refers to:
(A) the commercial and business district of the city.
(B) the congested quarters inhabited by the native Indian population.
(C) the well-planned residential areas for the European population.
(D) the boundary line separating the city from the rural countryside.

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268. Which statement best describes the industrial structure that emerged in colonial India?
(A) A lopsided structure with a deficiency in capital goods industries.
(B) A well-balanced structure with strong heavy and light industries.
(C) A structure dominated by state-owned heavy engineering plants.
(D) A technologically advanced structure surpassing British industries.

269. The early objectives of the labour and trade union movements were primarily focused on:
(A) overthrowing the colonial government immediately.
(B) gaining control and ownership of the factories.
(C) securing better wages and working conditions for labourers.
(D) promoting the interests of British factory owners.

270. The paragraph implies that the labour movements eventually:
(A) remained isolated from mainstream political activities.
(B) were completely suppressed by the colonial government.
(C) focused solely on economic issues, ignoring political ones.
(D) became integrated with the nationalist anti-colonial struggle.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The colonial state established a centralized financial framework characterized by specific monetary policies, a structured banking system, and a managed currency and exchange regime. The monetary policy was often dictated by the needs of the British economy, particularly in maintaining the stability of the sterling. The exchange rate between the Indian rupee and the British pound was a contentious issue, with Indian nationalists arguing that the overvaluation of the rupee harmed Indian exporters. The development of banking was also shaped by colonial priorities, with British-controlled 'exchange banks' dominating foreign trade financing, while indigenous banking found it difficult to compete. A key element of colonial infrastructure development was the construction of railways and road transport networks. The railway network, a massive undertaking, was primarily designed to facilitate the rapid movement of troops for administrative control and the efficient transport of raw materials from the hinterland to ports for export. Similarly, the development of communications, including the post and telegraph system, served strategic and commercial imperial interests first and foremost. These networks were crucial for consolidating political control, facilitating economic exploitation, and tightening the integration of India into the British imperial system, rather than being primarily for the welfare of the Indian populace.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. According to the paragraph, the primary purpose of the railway network in colonial India was to:
(A) promote cultural exchange between different regions of India.
(B) create employment opportunities for the general Indian population.
(C) facilitate troop movement and the export of raw materials.
(D) encourage pilgrimage and domestic tourism for Indians.

272. The contentious issue regarding the currency and exchange policy, as mentioned in the source, was:
(A) the frequent devaluation of the rupee to help Indian exporters.
(B) the potential overvaluation of the rupee, which was detrimental to Indian exports.
(C) the replacement of the rupee with the British pound.
(D) the lack of a standardized currency across different presidencies.

273. What does the paragraph suggest about the colonial banking system?
(A) It was dominated by indigenous bankers who controlled all financial transactions.
(B) It was designed to provide easy credit to small Indian farmers.
(C) It was a decentralized system with no government regulation.
(D) It primarily consisted of British-controlled banks that monopolized foreign trade

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(A) Being a purely non-violent satyagraha.
(B) Being a movement of landlords against tenants.
(C) Being a struggle of Muslim tenants against Hindu landlords, intertwined with religious and anti-colonial sentiments.
(D) Being a movement for the establishment of a separate state.

234. The 'contact with Christianity' challenged Indian society primarily through its:
(A) Monotheistic doctrine and egalitarian social message, which critiqued caste.
(B) Military power.
(C) Economic investments.
(D) Architectural styles.

235. The 'New Education' system is often described as a 'downward filtration' theory, which means:
(A) The quality of education would decline over time.
(B) Education should start from the lowest classes and move upwards.
(C) Only a low level of education should be provided to Indians.
(D) Education would filter down from the educated upper classes to the masses.

236. The 'emergence of the middle class' provided the main audience and leadership for:
(A) The traditional zamindari class.
(B) The socio-religious reform movements and the nationalist movement.
(C) The British colonial administration.
(D) The tribal uprisings.

237. The 'Constitutional Position' of women saw a significant, though limited, step forward with the:
(A) Indian Penal Code of 1860.
(B) Charter Act of 1833.
(C) Government of India Act of 1919, which allowed provincial legislatures to enfranchise women.
(D) Ilbert Bill of 1883.

238. The 'modernisation of literary forms' is best exemplified by the works of authors like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Premchand, who wrote:
(A) Epic poems in Sanskrit.
(B) Commentaries on the Vedas.
(C) Devotional songs.
(D) Novels and short stories with social and nationalist themes.

239. 'De-urbanisation' meant that the proportion of the population living in urban areas:
(A) Stagnated or declined in the early 19th century before picking up later.
(B) Increased significantly in the early 19th century.
(C) Remained constant throughout the colonial period.
(D) Is impossible to determine from available data.

240. The colonial 'Banking' system was characterized by:
(A) A policy of encouraging small, rural cooperative banks.
(B) The dominance of large, British-controlled banks that primarily served European commercial interests.
(C) The complete absence of indigenous banking practices.
(D) A system where the government owned all the banks.

241. The Famine Codes established the principle that:
(A) Famines are natural calamities and the state has no role to play.
(B) The state has a duty to provide relief during famines.
(C) Only private charity should be responsible for famine relief.
(D) Famine relief should be given only to those who work for the government.

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242. The Santhal Rebellion (1855-56) is a classic example of a 'tribal movement' against:
(A) The oppression by moneylenders, zamindars, and the colonial police.
(B) The introduction of a new religion.
(C) The invasion by a neighboring kingdom.
(D) A dispute over royal succession.

243. The Arya Samaj, a key 'socio-religious reform' movement, advocated for:
(A) A synthesis of Indian and Western beliefs.
(B) The establishment of a secular state.
(C) A return to the pristine purity of the Vedas

280. The paragraph suggests that colonial municipal administration in urban areas was often:
(A) highly effective in solving the problems of the entire urban population.
(B) controlled and managed by elected representatives of the Indian population.
(C) focused on developing public transport over all other amenities.
(D) biased in its allocation of resources, favouring European areas.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were marked by recurrent and devastating famines and epidemics, which had a profound impact on Indian society. While environmental factors played a role, colonial economic policies exacerbated the situation. The emphasis on cash crops over food grains, the export of food-stuffs even during times of scarcity, and the disruption of traditional coping mechanisms contributed to the severity of the famines. The government's policy in response to these crises evolved over time but was often criticized for its belatedness and inadequacy. The official approach was guided by a strict adherence to laissez-faire principles, which discouraged interference with market forces and led to a reluctance to implement large-scale and timely food distribution. The development of a 'Famine Code' represented a systematic, albeit limited, approach to relief, focusing on public works to provide wages rather than direct food aid. Alongside famines, epidemics like plague and cholera ravaged the population, often facilitated by the conditions in overcrowded urban areas and the movement of people on railways. Government interventions in public health, such as sanitation drives and quarantines, were often met with popular resistance due to their intrusive and culturally insensitive nature. The widespread agrarian distress and the perceived governmental apathy fueled numerous tribal and peasant movements, which were powerful expressions of popular discontent against the colonial state and its collaborating classes like moneylenders and landlords.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. According to the paragraph, what role did colonial economic policies play in famines?
(A) They worsened the impact of famines by prioritizing exports and cash crops.
(B) They successfully prevented famines through better agricultural planning.
(C) They had no significant impact on the occurrence of famines.
(D) They created a surplus of food grains that was distributed as relief.

282. The initial government policy towards famines was heavily influenced by:
(A) socialist principles of state intervention and welfare.
(B) a commitment to free-market or laissez-faire doctrines.
(C) traditional Indian practices of royal charity and grain storage.
(D) the demands of Indian nationalists for comprehensive relief.

283. What does the passage identify as a major cause for popular resistance to government public health measures?
(A) The measures were too expensive for the government to implement.
(B) The measures were considered intrusive and culturally insensitive.
(C) The public believed that epidemics were not a serious threat.
(D) The measures were opposed by traditional Indian healers.

284. The 'Famine Code' primarily focused on:
(A) establishing public works projects for providing wage-based relief.
(B) providing free and direct food aid to all affected people.
(C) punishing officials who failed to prevent famines.
(D) implementing long-term agricultural reforms to ensure food security.

285. The paragraph suggests a direct link between widespread agrarian distress caused by famines and:
(A) a significant increase in industrial production.
(B) the colonial government's decision to grant India independence.

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the forefront of both social reform and political consciousness. The dynamics of caste also began to change, with the rise of caste associations and movements for caste mobility. These associations used modern methods of organization and petitioning to claim higher social status and demand access to education and employment. Parallel to these developments was a significant discourse on the 'women's question'. While often framed within a nationalist paradigm—where the honor of the nation was linked to the status of its women—it led to the formation of women's organisations and prompted the British to pass legislation concerning women, such as acts related to the age of consent and widow remarriage. The printing press played a pivotal role in all these transformations, fostering journalistic activity and shaping an informed public opinion that could engage with and critique both tradition and colonial rule.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The Indian Renaissance and socio-religious reform movements were partly a response to:
(A) a directive from the British crown to modernize Indian society.
(B) the economic prosperity brought by colonial rule.
(C) the complete absence of social evils in pre-colonial India.
(D) the challenges posed by Western modernity and missionary critiques.

297. The emergence of the new middle class was closely linked to:
(A) the new colonial economy and education system.
(B) the revival of the traditional landed aristocracy.
(C) the expansion of the pre-colonial military structure.
(D) the decline of all urban centres in India.

298. According to the paragraph, what was a key function of the printing press during this period?
(A) To exclusively publish government gazettes and orders.
(B) To foster journalistic activity and help shape public opinion.
(C) To limit the spread of new ideas and maintain tradition.
(D) To print currency notes for the colonial government.

299. How was the 'women's question' often framed within the nationalist discourse?
(A) As an irrelevant issue compared to the political struggle.
(B) As a matter where the nation's honor was tied to women's status.
(C) As a private, domestic matter with no public significance.
(D) As a means to prove the superiority of Western culture.

300. Caste associations, as described in the source, used modern methods to:
(A) demand access to education and claim higher social status.
(B) reinforce traditional caste hierarchies and untouchability.
(C) advocate for the complete abolition of the caste system.
(D) challenge the colonial government through armed rebellion.

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policy, influenced by debates like the Anglicist-Orientalist controversy, eventually favoured a system with English as the primary medium of instruction. The levels and content of this new education were structured to serve colonial needs, focusing on humanities and law rather than a comprehensive development of science and technology. While the stated goal was to promote modernism, the practical outcome was often the production of clerks and lower-level administrators. The emphasis on the English language was crucial, as it was seen as the vehicle of modern Western thought and a tool for creating a culturally aligned elite. Despite the limited scope, this educational policy led to the development of a new intellectual class. Concurrently, there were slow but definite developments in the fields of science, technology, public health, and medicine. The establishment of engineering and medical colleges, though limited in number, marked a move towards modernism. These institutions introduced Western scientific methods and practices, laying the groundwork for future advancements, even though their immediate impact was constrained by the overarching colonial agenda that prioritized administrative and commercial interests over genuine national development.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What was a primary objective of the 'new education' policy introduced by the British government?
(A) To revive and promote traditional Indian systems of learning.
(B) To provide vocational training to the entire Indian population.
(C) To create a class of Indians to serve in the colonial administration.
(D) To ensure that scientific education was prioritized over humanities.

292. The dominant medium of instruction in the 'new education' system eventually became:
(A) The English language, as favoured by the Anglicists.
(B) Sanskrit and Persian to respect Indian tradition.
(C) Vernacular languages to ensure mass education.
(D) A combination of French and English for a European feel.

293. The content of the new education system was criticized in the paragraph for:
(A) being too focused on advanced science and technology.
(B) overly emphasizing religious and theological studies.
(C) being delivered entirely through oral traditions.
(D) favouring humanities and law over technical fields.

294. The passage suggests that the development of science and medicine, though a move towards modernism, was:
(A) the top priority of the colonial government.
(B) constrained by the larger colonial administrative and commercial goals.
(C) entirely managed and funded by Indian philanthropists.
(D) completely detached from Western scientific practices.

295. The emphasis on the English language in education was intended to:
(A) make it easier for Indians to trade with other European nations.
(B) completely eradicate all Indian vernacular languages.
(C) create a culturally aligned elite and transmit Western ideas.
(D) promote the study of English literature exclusively.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The 19th century is often described as a period of Indian Renaissance, characterized by a ferment of socio-religious reforms. This awakening was spurred by the challenges posed by Western modernity and Christian missionary critiques, leading to a re-examination of traditional beliefs and practices. Reform movements sought to eradicate social evils like Sati, child marriage, and the rigidities of the caste system. Concurrently, the new colonial economy and education system facilitated the emergence of a new urban middle class. This class, comprising professionals, government employees, and intellectuals, was at

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source of raw materials for British factories and a captive market for their finished products. By discouraging the development of heavy industry and providing preferential treatment to British capital, the colonial government ensured that any industrialization in India remained lopsided and dependent.

41. (C) The construction of ideal roles for Indian women in contrast to other models.
In the nationalist discourse, gender identity involved the construction of ideal roles for Indian women that contrasted with both traditional orthodoxies and Western models. Nationalists often depicted the new woman as educated and modern yet deeply rooted in domestic virtues and Indian spirituality. This identity was used to project the image of a reformed nation that was culturally superior to the West and capable.

42. (A) Extreme housing shortages, poor sanitation, and inadequate water supply.
The rapid and unplanned growth of colonial cities led to severe urban problems, especially in the areas inhabited by the native Indian population. These regions faced extreme housing shortages, resulting in the proliferation of slums and overcrowded tenements. Furthermore, the lack of investment in basic infrastructure led to poor sanitation, inadequate water supply, and frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases, highlighting the stark urban disparities.

43. (D) The need to keep the army and the British civilian population healthy.
The colonial government's initiatives in public health and medicine were primarily motivated by the need to protect the health of British troops and civilian officials. Epidemics like cholera and malaria posed a significant threat to the stability of British rule. Consequently, most medical facilities and sanitation improvements were concentrated in cantonments and civil lines, with the health of the general Indian population receiving only secondary consideration.

44. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
In the early stages, the Indian labor movement was often led by outside philanthropists and nationalist leaders who sought to improve the conditions of workers. However, the colonial government did not support the growth of trade unions; instead, it often viewed them with suspicion and used repressive measures to curb their activities. It was only later that workers began to organize themselves more independently.

45. (C) A blend of Indo-Saracenic, Gothic, and Neoclassical elements.
The architecture of major colonial cities like Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras was characterized by an eclectic mix of styles. British architects combined European Gothic and Neoclassical designs with elements of Indian and Islamic architecture, such as domes and arches, creating the Indo-Saracenic style. This hybrid architecture was intended to symbolize the power and permanence of the British Raj while acknowledging the cultural context.

46. (D) The disappearance of patronage from Indian rulers and nobles.
One of the most significant factors in the decline of traditional artisans was the loss of patronage from the Indian princely courts and the landed aristocracy. As British rule expanded, these traditional elites lost their political power and financial resources, leading to a collapse in the demand for high-quality luxury goods. This, combined with competition from cheap British imports, left many artisans without a livelihood.

47. (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
The economic history of colonial India followed a clear sequence. The railways were first introduced in 1853. The first successful cotton textile mill was established in Bombay in 1854. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 significantly shortened the trade route between India and Europe. Finally, the first Fiscal Commission was appointed in 1921 to investigate providing protective tariffs for Indian industries.

48. (B) Were the first to introduce education for girls and marginalized sections of society.
Christian missionaries played a pioneering role in expanding educational opportunities to social groups that were traditionally excluded from learning. They were among the first to establish schools for girls and children from the lower castes and tribal communities. By introducing modern Western subjects and promoting literacy

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ANSWERS

1. (B) A shift towards the export of raw materials and foodstuff.
British colonial policies aimed at transforming India into a supplier of raw materials for British industries. This led to a decline in traditional manufactured exports like textiles and an increase in the export of primary products such as cotton, jute, tea, and food grains. This structural change reflected the needs of the industrial revolution in Great Britain during the nineteenth century. This shift fundamentally altered the Indian economy.

2. (D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.
Agricultural expansion under colonial rule was primarily driven by the requirements of the British industrial economy rather than the domestic Indian market. The commercialization of agriculture promoted the cultivation of cash crops like indigo and cotton for global markets. This often occurred at the expense of traditional food crops, causing significant distress to the rural population and increasing their vulnerability during periods of devastating famine.

3. (C) Shipbuilding
During the later phase of British rule, modern industries like cotton textiles in Bombay and jute in Bengal experienced significant growth. The establishment of the Tata Iron and Steel Company also marked progress in heavy industry. However, shipbuilding, once a flourishing traditional industry in pre-colonial India, suffered a severe decline due to British policies that favored British shipping companies and naval interests over the indigenous industry.

4. (D) The decay and decline of traditional urban centres famous for their crafts and industries.
De-urbanisation refers to the decline of traditional urban centers like Murshidabad, Surat, and Dacca, which were previously famous for their artisanal crafts and commerce. This decay was primarily caused by the collapse of traditional industries under the pressure of competition from British machine-made goods and the loss of royal patronage. Consequently, many artisans and urban dwellers were forced to migrate back to rural villages.

5. (C) To provide a reliable source of irrigation for commercial crops.
The British developed a vast canal system in India with the specific objective of increasing the production of lucrative commercial crops like wheat, cotton, and sugarcane. While these projects provided irrigation to semi-arid regions, they were strategically located to ensure a steady supply of raw materials for export markets. The focus remained on revenue generation and supporting British industrial needs rather than ensuring food security.

6. (A) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
Colonial land revenue systems varied across regions. The Permanent Settlement fixed revenue with Zamindars in Bengal. The Ryotwari system involved direct agreements with individual cultivators in Madras and Bombay. The Mahalwari system treated the village community or estate as the unit for revenue collection in North-Western Provinces. Finally, the Malguzari system was implemented in the Central Provinces, where revenue was settled with local revenue farmers.

7. (D) The government introduced widespread, effective cooperative credit societies that eliminated the problem.
Rural indebtedness was a persistent issue caused by high land revenue demands and rigid collection methods used by the colonial state. Peasants were often forced to borrow at high interest rates from moneylenders to pay taxes or buy agricultural inputs for cash crops. Although the British introduced some cooperative credit societies in the early twentieth century, these were largely ineffective and failed to eliminate the problem.

8. (A) Workmen's Compensation Act (1923) - Granted compensation for employment-related injuries.
The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 was a significant piece of social legislation that

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and Cantonments for the European population, featuring wide roads, bungalows, and modern sanitation. In contrast, the native Indian parts of the city remained congested, neglected, and lacked adequate civic amenities, reflecting the hierarchical nature of the colonial administrative state.

25. (C) Regulating the working conditions of child labourers.
The first Indian Factories Act of 1881 was a rudimentary piece of legislation primarily concerned with the welfare of child workers. It set a minimum age for employment and limited the working hours for children in large factories. This early law did not address the wages or working conditions of adult male workers and was enacted partly due to pressure from British manufacturers wanting to reduce competition.

26. (B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
Several key figures led the socio-religious reform movements in India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj in 1828 to promote monotheism. Dayananda Saraswati established the Arya Samaj with the slogan of returning to the Vedas. Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission to carry out social service and spread teachings. Atmaram Pandurang was instrumental in the formation of the Prarthana Samaj in the Maharashtra region.

27. (D) The provision of relief work for able-bodied persons and gratuitous relief for others.
Following the devastating famines of the late nineteenth century, the British government developed Famine Codes to provide a systematic response. These codes emphasized providing employment through relief works, such as road or canal construction, for those physically capable of working. For those unable to work, such as the elderly or infirm, the codes provided for gratuitous relief or direct food distribution, though the overall response inadequate.

28. (B) They were often directed against the destruction of their traditional land and forest rights by outsiders (dikus).
Tribal movements during the colonial era were largely defensive reactions against the encroachment of the state and outsiders, known as dikus. These outsiders exploited the tribal populations and disrupted their traditional land and forest-based livelihoods. Consequently, tribal revolts, such as the Santhal Rebellion and the Birsa Munda Uprising, aimed to protect their ancestral rights and restore their traditional ways of life against external intrusion.

29. (C) The joint family system.
Christian missionaries in India frequently critiqued various aspects of Indian society, focusing on practices they considered irrational or oppressive. Their targets included the caste system, untouchability, child marriage, and the practice of sati. They also criticized religious beliefs such as polytheism and idol worship. However, the joint family system was generally not a primary target of their critique, as it did not directly conflict with their reform agendas.

30. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The development of modern science and technology under British rule was a state-sponsored project designed to meet colonial requirements. Organizations like the Geological Survey, Botanical Survey, and various medical research institutes were established to facilitate the exploration of natural resources and ensure the health of the British army and officials. These scientific activities were strategically aligned with the economic exploitation and administrative control of the territory.

31. (A) Caste groups attempted to improve their position in the social hierarchy through various means.
Caste mobility refers to the efforts made by various caste groups to elevate their status within the social hierarchy during the colonial period. This was often achieved through the process of Sanskritization, where lower castes adopted the customs and rituals of higher castes. Additionally, caste associations were formed to petition the government for better access to education, government jobs, and higher social recognition in official census records.

32. (B) Limited and qualified franchise was gradually extended to women, largely based on property and education.
The right to vote for women in British India was granted gradually and was not universal. Following the Government of India Act of 1919,

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Sanskritization, adopting the rituals of higher castes, while also petitioning the government for better education and employment opportunities. Their primary goal was to secure modern benefits and achieve upward mobility within the changing socio-economic environment created by British rule.

17. (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
British social legislation regarding women followed a specific timeline. The Abolition of Sati was enacted in 1829 under Lord William Bentinck. The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act was passed in 1856 through the efforts of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The Age of Consent Act, which raised the age for consummation, followed in 1891. Finally, the Sharda Act, also known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, was passed in 1929.

18. (A) A way to create better mothers and wives who would strengthen the nation.
The nationalist discourse on female education often framed the role of women within the context of the family and the nation. While advocating for reform, nationalists emphasized that educated women would become better mothers and wives capable of raising the next generation of patriotic citizens. This approach sought to modernize the domestic sphere without necessarily challenging the fundamental patriarchal structure of society or advocating for complete independence.

19. (C) The printing press
The printing press was the most influential technological innovation for the growth of journalism in nineteenth-century India. It enabled the rapid and relatively inexpensive production of newspapers and periodicals in both English and vernacular languages. This allowed for the widespread dissemination of news, political critiques, and social ideas, which were essential for the formation of an informed public opinion and the growth of national consciousness.

20. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The commercialization of agriculture was not beneficial for the majority of the peasantry because it shifted production from subsistence food crops to cash crops for the market. This change increased the dependence of small farmers on merchants and moneylenders for credit to buy expensive inputs. Consequently, many peasants fell into a cycle of debt, leading to the loss of their land and overall vulnerability.

21. (C) The wars created demand that stimulated certain sectors of Indian industry, like steel and textiles.
The two World Wars had a complex impact on the Indian economy. During these periods, the disruption of imports from Europe and the massive military demand for supplies stimulated certain domestic industries. Sectors such as iron and steel, cotton textiles, and jute experienced significant growth as they stepped in to fill the gap. However, this industrial stimulation was accompanied by severe inflation and shortages of essential goods.

22. (B) The ruin of traditional handicraft industries and the displacement of artisans.
De-industrialisation in nineteenth-century India refers to the systematic decline of traditional handicraft and artisanal industries, particularly textiles. This was caused by the influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain following the Industrial Revolution and the loss of traditional patronage from Indian courts. As these local industries collapsed, millions of artisans were displaced and forced into agriculture, leading to increased pressure on land and poverty.

23. (A) P, Q, and T only
British monetary policy in India aimed to create a uniform currency system to facilitate administration and trade. A key feature was the manipulation of the exchange rate between the Indian rupee and the British pound sterling to benefit British commercial interests. By linking the rupee to the pound at an artificially high rate, the colonial government made British imports cheaper in India while making Indian exports more expensive for the global international market.

24. (A) The creation of spacious, segregated Civil Lines for the European population.
Colonial town planning in cities like New Delhi and Allahabad was characterized by racial and social segregation. The British developed well-planned, spacious areas known as Civil Lines

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(C) the rise of tribal and peasant movements against the colonial system.
(D) a period of social harmony and collaboration with the state.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The transition of Indian society during the colonial era was profoundly influenced by its contact with Christianity, primarily through the activities of missions and missionaries. These missions engaged in direct proselytization but also undertook significant educational and other philanthropic activities. The missionary enterprise was often accompanied by a trenchant critique of Indian social and economic practices, religious beliefs, and customs. Practices such as idol worship, the caste system, and various social rituals were frequently condemned as backward and superstitious. This critique, while often intended to pave the way for conversion, also inadvertently stimulated introspection and debate within Indian society itself, contributing to the impetus for social reform. Beyond evangelism, missionaries were pioneers in establishing educational institutions, including schools and colleges, which played a crucial role in the dissemination of Western knowledge and ideas. They also engaged in medical work and other charitable endeavors. The presence and activities of these missions created a complex dynamic: on one hand, they were seen as agents of cultural imperialism and a threat to indigenous traditions; on the other, their educational and social work had a modernizing impact and compelled Indian society to confront its own internal challenges.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. Besides direct proselytization, what were the other significant activities undertaken by Christian missions in India?
(A) Large-scale industrial development and infrastructure projects.
(B) The organization of political parties to contest elections.
(C) The promotion of traditional Indian arts and crafts.
(D) The establishment of educational institutions and medical facilities.

287. The missionary critique of Indian society primarily targeted:
(A) the colonial government's economic policies.
(B) the lack of scientific and technological development.
(C) existing social practices, religious beliefs, and customs.
(D) India's traditional systems of trade and commerce.

288. According to the paragraph, what was an 'inadvertent' consequence of the missionary critique of Indian society?
(A) It led to mass conversions to Christianity across India.
(B) It stimulated internal debate and movements for social reform within Indian society.
(C) It caused the complete collapse of the Indian social structure.
(D) It resulted in the colonial government banning all missionary activity.

289. The role of missionaries' educational institutions was significant in:
(A) exclusively teaching Christian theology to all students.
(B) preserving and promoting Sanskrit and other classical languages.
(C) training Indians for high-ranking administrative posts in the government.
(D) spreading Western knowledge and modern ideas.

290. How is the overall impact of missionary activities described in the paragraph?
(A) As a complex mix of cultural challenge and modernizing influence.
(B) As purely positive and universally welcomed by Indian society.
(C) As entirely negative and destructive to Indian culture.
(D) As having no lasting effect on the course of Indian history.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The introduction of 'the new education' was a cornerstone of British policy, aimed at creating a class of Indians who could assist in the administration of the empire. The government's

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provincial legislatures were given the power to enfranchise women. However, this right was restricted to a very small minority based on strict qualifications related to property ownership, tax payments, or educational attainment. It was only after independence that universal franchise was introduced.

33. (B) The adoption of new literary forms like the novel, short story, and prose essays.
The modernisation of Indian languages during the colonial era was characterized by the development of new literary genres and prose styles. Influenced by Western literature, Indian authors began to write novels, short stories, and analytical essays that addressed contemporary social and political issues. This shift away from traditional poetic forms allowed for greater realism and the expression of a modern, critical consciousness, making literature more accessible.

34. (A) A synthesis of Western techniques (like oil painting and perspective) with Indian themes and styles.
Painting in colonial India underwent a significant reorientation as artists combined Western artistic methods with traditional Indian subjects. This synthesis is evident in the works of Raja Ravi Varma, who used oil paints to depict Hindu mythological themes. Later, the Bengal School of Art, led by Abanindranath Tagore, rejected Western academic realism in favor of a more spiritual and indigenous style inspired by ancient Indian murals.

35. (C) Facilitating rapid administrative and military communication for the colonial state.
The primary motivation for the British to introduce the post and telegraph system was to strengthen their administrative and military control over India. These technologies allowed for the rapid transmission of orders and information across the vast territory, which was crucial for managing the empire and responding to revolts. While these services were eventually used by the public, their initial development was driven by strategic needs.

36. (D) They were always organized and led by national-level political parties.
Peasant movements in colonial India were typically localized struggles driven by specific economic grievances, such as high land revenue, exorbitant rents, or exploitation by moneylenders. While some movements later gained support from national leaders, many were spontaneous and led by local figures or community elders. They often used traditional social or religious idioms for mobilization and were not always part of a larger, centrally organized party.

37. (C) The emergence of new social classes like professionals, clerks, and industrial workers.
The growth of colonial cities led to the development of a new urban society that was distinct from the traditional rural structure. This transition saw the emergence of new social classes, including Western-educated professionals, government clerks, and a growing workforce of industrial laborers in factories and ports. These classes formed the core of the new urban environment and played a significant role in the social transformations.

38. (A) P, Q, and R only
Colonial trade policy was designed to serve the interests of the British economy. It promoted the free entry of British manufactured goods into India while imposing high protective tariffs on Indian manufactured goods entering Britain. This policy led to a significant shift in the direction of trade, establishing Britain as India's primary trading partner. The overall effect was to create an extractive economic relationship.

39. (D) Integration into the wider capitalist world market, making them vulnerable to price fluctuations.
The commercialization of agriculture integrated Indian peasants into the global capitalist market, making them vulnerable to international price fluctuations. Instead of growing food for local consumption, farmers produced cash crops like cotton and jute for export. When global prices fell, peasants who had borrowed money to grow these crops were left in deep debt. This integration often undermined local food security and increased instability.

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40. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
British industrial policy in India was not intended to foster independent industrial growth. Instead, it was designed to maintain India as a

granted industrial workers the right to receive compensation for injuries sustained during the course of employment. In contrast, the First Factories Act of 1881 primarily focused on child labor, not adult males. Furthermore, the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 provided legal recognition to unions rather than making their activities illegal.

9. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The introduction of railways significantly transformed India's trade patterns by linking the hinterlands directly to major ports like Bombay and Calcutta. This infrastructure facilitated the efficient transport of raw materials from rural areas for export and the distribution of British manufactured goods into the interior markets. Thus, the physical movement of goods supported by the railway network directly caused the observed shift in trade.

10. (A) The dispossession of peasants from their land due to debt and revenue arrears.
The class of landless agricultural laborers emerged as a direct consequence of colonial land revenue policies and increasing rural debt. High tax demands and the commodification of land meant that peasants who could not pay their arrears often lost their holdings through sale or mortgage foreclosure. These dispossessed cultivators had no choice but to work as laborers on the lands of others to survive and earn.

11. (D) The transfer of wealth to Britain for which India got no proportionate return.
Early Indian nationalists, particularly Dadabhai Naoroji, formulated the drain theory to explain the systematic transfer of India's resources to Great Britain. This drain included home charges, pensions for British officials, interest on public debt, and profits made by foreign companies. The crucial aspect was that India received no economic equivalent or proportionate return for this massive outflow of wealth, leading to chronic national poverty.

12. (A) P and R only
Christian missionaries in colonial India engaged in a critical evaluation of Indian social and religious practices, which often prompted internal reforms. They played a vital role in establishing modern educational institutions, focusing on Western science and literature. While their primary goal was religious, their educational efforts reached marginalized sections. However, they did not always receive direct support from the government, which maintained a policy of neutrality.

13. (C) Use of the English language as the primary medium for higher education.
The colonial education policy, influenced by Macaulay's Minute, prioritized Western learning over traditional indigenous knowledge systems. A defining feature of this policy was the adoption of English as the sole medium of instruction for higher education. The goal was to create a class of Indians who were Western in intellect and could serve as efficient intermediaries in the British administrative and judicial colonial bureaucracy.

14. (D) A period of socio-religious reforms and intellectual awakening.
The Indian Renaissance refers to a significant period of intellectual ferment and socio-religious reform that occurred during the nineteenth century. Inspired by Western rationalism and a re-evaluation of ancient Indian traditions, reformers sought to eliminate social evils like sati and untouchability. This awakening fostered a spirit of critical inquiry and modern thinking, laying the cultural and intellectual foundations for the later political national struggle.

15. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
Colonial policies and the introduction of Western education led to the emergence of a new middle class in India. This class consisted of professionals such as lawyers, teachers, doctors, and government officials who primarily resided in urban centers. They were not a rural group engaged in agriculture; instead, their social standing was based on their education and roles within the colonial administrative, judicial, and commercial structures.

16. (B) To seek upward social mobility and access to new opportunities.
During the colonial period, various caste groups formed associations to improve their social standing within the traditional hierarchy. These organizations often used the process of

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in vernacular languages, they challenged traditional social hierarchies and provided the tools for future social and political participation.

49. (B) Aligarh Movement - Opposition to modern scientific education.
The Aligarh Movement, led by Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, was actually a strong advocate for the adoption of modern scientific and Western education among Indian Muslims. It aimed to reconcile Islamic teachings with modern knowledge to help the community progress under British rule. The other options are correct as the Brahmo Samaj focused on monotheism, the Arya Samaj on the Vedas, and the Theosophists on revivalism.

50. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
British legislative actions covered diverse areas. The Indian Penal Code of 1860 codified criminal law for the country. The Age of Consent Act of 1891 raised the age at which the consummation of marriage was legally permitted. The Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 provided a framework for unions. Finally, the Sharda Act of 1929 was specifically aimed at raising the marriageable age.

51. (C) The concept of private property in land, which could be bought, sold, and mortgaged.
British land revenue policies introduced the concept of land as a form of private property that could be legally bought, sold, and mortgaged. This was a radical departure from traditional systems where land was held communally. This new legal framework facilitated the transfer of land to moneylenders and urban investors when peasants defaulted on their debts or revenue payments, leading to widespread dispossession.

52. (D) Were agricultural workers who did not own the land they cultivated.
Landless laborers were a distinct class of individuals who earned their living by working on the farms of others because they did not own any land themselves. This class grew significantly during the colonial period as small peasants were dispossessed of their holdings due to high taxes and debt. Additionally, ruined artisans who could no longer practice their crafts turned to agricultural labor for survival.

53. (B) Q and R only
The development of modern communication systems like the post and telegraph was driven by the strategic needs of the colonial state. Their primary purpose was to facilitate the rapid movement of military and administrative information, which was essential for maintaining control over the vast and diverse Indian territory. These systems were not primarily intended for public welfare or designed to be accessible to the poor.

54. (B) Prose narratives like the novel and the short story.
The colonial period saw a major shift in Indian literature with the rise of modern prose forms. While traditional literature was dominated by epic poetry and devotional songs, the new era was marked by the emergence of the novel and the short story. These genres allowed writers to explore realistic social themes, individual psychology, and nationalist ideas, reflecting the influence of Western literary traditions.

55. (D) Maintaining a high exchange rate that favored British imports.
The colonial government's currency policy was frequently criticized for its manipulation of the rupee-sterling exchange rate. By maintaining the rupee at an artificially high value relative to the British pound, the government made British manufactured goods cheaper for Indian consumers while making Indian agricultural exports more expensive in the international market. This policy directly served the interests of British manufacturers and aided the drain.

56. (A) They were often founded and led by women from the new educated middle class.
Women's organizations that emerged in the early twentieth century were primarily led by women from the burgeoning educated middle class. These leaders used their education and social positions to advocate for reforms such as female literacy, the abolition of child marriage, and the improvement of women's legal status. While they were linked to the nationalist movement, their focus was on the social upliftment of women.

57. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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The commission's recommendations formed the basis for the Famine Codes, designed to provide a structured administrative response.

74. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Colonial forest policies were a primary grievance for tribal communities because they declared vast areas of forest as state property. These laws restricted the traditional rights of tribal people to practice shifting cultivation and collect forest produce. By disrupting their subsistence-based economy and criminalizing their way of life, these policies forced many tribal groups into debt and labor exploitation, directly triggering uprisings.

75. (D) A process of internal reflection and reform within Hindu and other Indian religious traditions.
The encounter with Christianity and the critiques offered by missionaries forced many Indian thinkers to re-examine their own traditions. This led to a period of internal reflection and the emergence of various reform movements within Hinduism and other faiths. These movements sought to remove perceived superstitions and social evils, emphasizing rational and monotheistic aspects, thereby contributing to the broader awakening of the Indian Renaissance.

76. (A) 2, 1, 3
The British introduced different land revenue systems over time as they expanded their control. The Permanent Settlement was the first, introduced in Bengal in 1793. This was followed by the Ryotwari Settlement, which was developed in the early nineteenth century and implemented primarily in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. The Mahalwari Settlement was the last major system, introduced in the North-Western Provinces during the 1820s.

77. (C) Outbreaks of epidemics that could disrupt trade and administration.
Public health initiatives like vaccination programs were strategically focused on controlling infectious diseases that posed a threat to British interests. Epidemics such as smallpox, plague, and cholera could decimate the army and bring trade and administrative activities to a standstill. Therefore, the colonial government prioritized these preventive measures to ensure the smooth functioning of the empire and the safety of its own personnel.

78. (D) It was a purely religious movement with no social dimension.
The Indian Renaissance was a multifaceted movement that addressed both religious and social issues. While it began with a re-evaluation of religious doctrines, it quickly expanded to include a deep concern for social reform. Reformers advocated for the abolition of sati, the education of women, the end of the caste system, and the promotion of rationalism. It was a comprehensive effort to modernize society.

79. (A) Exporting finished textiles to exporting raw cotton.
Under British rule, the structure of India's foreign trade underwent a fundamental change. In the pre-colonial period, India was a major exporter of finished manufactured goods, particularly fine cotton textiles. However, colonial policies and the Industrial Revolution transformed India into an exporter of primary products like raw cotton and jute. Simultaneously, India became a captive market for finished industrial products from Great Britain.

80. (A) P, Q, and S only
The British invested in large-scale canal irrigation projects, but these were selectively developed in regions where they could boost the production of profitable cash crops. While these projects increased productivity, the government charged high water rates for their use. At the same time, many traditional community-based systems were neglected and fell into disuse, leading to a lopsided development of agricultural infrastructure in India.

81. (B) They became increasingly impoverished and were forced into low-paying occupations.
The decline of traditional industries had a devastating impact on millions of artisans who lost their source of income. Unable to compete with cheap machine-made imports, many were forced into the agricultural sector as landless laborers or had to take up other low-paying and unskilled jobs. This process did not lead to their absorption into modern industries; instead, it resulted in widespread impoverishment.

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strategic and economic control of the empire. Roads were built to facilitate the movement of troops and to provide better administrative links between different districts. Furthermore, the road network was designed to supplement the railways by connecting remote agricultural areas to railway stations, thereby easing the transport of raw materials.

66. (A) Its perceived polytheism and idol worship.
Western observers and Christian missionaries often criticized Indian religions for being irrational and superstitious. A major focus of their critique was the widespread practice of polytheism and the use of idols in worship, which they contrasted with their own monotheistic beliefs. This external criticism prompted Indian reformers to engage in internal reflection, leading to movements that emphasized monotheism and the rational interpretation of scriptures.

67. (C) The growth of opportunities in colonial administration, law, teaching, and other professions.
The emergence of the new middle class was a direct result of the administrative and educational changes introduced by British rule. As the colonial state expanded, there was an increasing demand for English-educated Indians to work as clerks, lawyers, teachers, and doctors. This class derived its social status and economic security from these modern professions rather than traditional land ownership, eventually leading the nationalist movement.

68. (D) Sanskritization
Sanskritization is a term used to describe the process through which lower caste groups attempted to raise their social status. They did this by adopting the rituals, dietary habits, and lifestyle of the upper castes, particularly the Brahmins. During the colonial period, this process was often combined with political mobilization through associations as groups sought to improve their position in the eyes of society.

69. (C) It served as a legal tool for social reformers to challenge certain oppressive customs.
British social legislation, such as the laws against sati and child marriage, provided Indian social reformers with important legal support in their struggle against oppressive customs. While the laws themselves did not immediately change social attitudes, they gave reformers a powerful tool to challenge orthodox practices and advocate for women's rights within a legal framework. This interaction was a key feature of nineteenth-century history.

70. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Resistance movements in colonial India took many forms. The Indigo Rebellion was a major peasant uprising against exploitative European planters. The Santhal Rebellion was a powerful tribal revolt against outsiders. The Deccan Riots of 1875 were primarily directed against moneylenders following a hike in land revenue. Social banditry was practiced by marginalized communities like the Kallars who resisted the loss of their rights.

71. (D) A vibrant and critical press in both English and vernacular languages.
The nineteenth century saw the growth of a diverse and influential press in India. Both English-language newspapers and a wide range of vernacular publications provided a platform for debating social, religious, and political issues. Despite frequent government attempts to restrict its freedom through repressive laws, the press remained a vital space for critiquing colonial policies and fostering a sense of national unity among elites.

72. (A) The emergence of new public performance contexts like ticketed concerts and proscenium theatre.
Reorientation in the arts involved a shift from traditional settings to modern public venues. Classical music and dance, previously performed in private salons or temples, began to be presented in ticketed public concerts in urban areas. Similarly, traditional theatre forms were adapted for the modern proscenium stage. This transition allowed for a wider audience and led to the professionalization of the arts in cities.

73. (C) Great Famine of 1876-78.
The Famine Commission of 1880 was established in the wake of the Great Famine of 1876-78, which caused millions of deaths across southern and western India. The government's failure to provide adequate relief during this crisis led to a widespread demand for a more systematic policy.

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native population and to provide a steady supply of clerks for the administration.

107. (D) A synthesis of Western ideas like rationalism with a reformed understanding of Indian traditions.
The socio-religious reform movements of the nineteenth century were characterized by a creative synthesis. Reformers did not blindly imitate the West nor did they completely reject it. Instead, they used modern Western concepts like reason and social equality to critique and reform their own traditions. They sought to find support for these modern values within ancient Indian scriptures, aiming for a revitalized and rationalized version of society.

108. (B) The All India Women's Conference (AIWC)
Founded in 1927, the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) was a major organization that brought together women from across the country to advocate for their rights. While it initially focused on promoting female education, it soon expanded its scope to include the abolition of child marriage and women's political enfranchisement. The AIWC played a significant role in articulating concerns and was closely associated with the national movement.

109. (C) Vernacular Press Act of 1878
The Vernacular Press Act of 1878, introduced by Lord Lytton, was a repressive law aimed specifically at silencing the growing criticism of British policies in the local Indian language newspapers. The act gave the government wide powers to confiscate the printing presses of newspapers that published seditious material. This discriminatory law was a clear attempt to curb the influence of the press and triggered widespread political protests.

110. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Several British administrators were associated with key social and political developments. Lord William Bentinck famously abolished the practice of Sati in 1829. Lord Dalhousie supported the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act of 1856. Lord Lansdowne's administration passed the Age of Consent Act in 1891. Lord Ripon was the Viceroy during the controversial Ilbert Bill of 1883, which sought to remove racial disqualifications for Indian judges.

111. (A) P, Q, and R only
The introduction of railways significantly aided the colonial economy by facilitating the commercialization of agriculture and the penetration of British manufactured goods into the interior. It also provided a crucial link between raw material producing regions and the ports. However, the railways did not stimulate large-scale ancillary indigenous industries; instead, they were built using imported British technology and capital, which drained wealth from the Indian economy.

112. (B) Regulate working conditions, hours, and employment of certain categories of workers in factories.
Factory Legislation in British India consisted of a series of laws aimed at providing some protection to industrial workers. These acts typically regulated the minimum age for employing children, limited the maximum working hours, and introduced basic safety standards in large-scale factories. While these laws were a step toward improving welfare, they were often limited in scope and were frequently enacted due to pressure from British industrial manufacturers.

113. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The British developed new urban areas that were strictly segregated along racial and social lines. The creation of spacious and well-ordered Civil Lines and Cantonments for the European population was a deliberate design choice. This physical segregation and the use of monumental architectural styles served to visually demonstrate the power and supposed superiority of the colonial rulers, creating a clear distance from the native Indian population.

114. (A) Were led by leaders claiming divine sanction to end their people's suffering.
Many tribal uprisings were led by charismatic figures believed to possess supernatural powers or divine authority. These leaders, such as Birsa Munda, often claimed that they were sent by God to drive out the outsiders and the British, and to restore a golden age of tribal autonomy. This messianic belief provided a powerful source of unity and mobilization for tribal communities facing extreme economic and social distress.

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82. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
British industrial policy was designed to prevent India from becoming a significant industrial competitor. The focus was kept on consumer goods industries like textiles and sugar, which did not threaten British interests. The government actively discouraged the development of heavy and capital goods industries. This lopsided pattern ensured that India remained dependent on Britain for machinery and technology, maintaining its role as a subordinate partner.

83. (C) Opposition from factory owners and a largely repressive state machinery.
The growth of early labor organizations in India faced significant hurdles. Factory owners, many of whom were British, were hostile to worker organization and used influence to suppress unions. The colonial state also maintained a repressive stance, frequently using the police and legal system to break strikes and arrest leaders. These factors made it very difficult to build a strong movement among the poor.

84. (D) Monetary Policy and Banking
The establishment of the Reserve Bank of India in 1935 was a landmark event in the evolution of India's financial system. It was created to act as the country's central bank, responsible for regulating banknotes, maintaining monetary stability, and overseeing the banking sector. This development marked a move toward a more organized monetary policy, although actions were still heavily influenced by the colonial government.

85. (C) The well-planned, sanitary European quarters and the congested, neglected Indian parts of the city.
A defining feature of colonial urbanization was the sharp divide between the European and Indian sections of the city. The British created spacious areas known as Civil Lines and Cantonments for themselves, provided with modern drainage and paved roads. In contrast, the native Indian parts of the city were allowed to remain extremely congested and lacked even basic sanitary facilities, creating a highly unequal urban environment.

86. (B) A general policy of non-intervention and neglect.
During the early part of the nineteenth century, the colonial government largely ignored the problem of infectious diseases among the general Indian population. Guided by the principle of laissez-faire, the state avoided significant expenditure on public health or preventive measures. It was only after major outbreaks threatened the health of British troops and officials that the government gradually adopted a proactive, though selective, approach.

87. (D) A series of localised struggles with specific economic grievances.
Peasant movements in colonial India were not a single unified struggle but rather a collection of numerous localized uprisings. These movements were typically triggered by immediate concerns, such as the demand for lower land revenue or resistance against the high interest rates charged by moneylenders. While these struggles had political implications, their primary focus was on addressing specific economic hardships faced by cultivators in regions.

88. (A) The growth of a small, educated group of Indians who were exposed to Western ideas.
Missionary schools and colleges provided a segment of the Indian population with access to Western education and ideas. This led to the growth of a small but influential group of educated Indians who were familiar with modern scientific, political, and social thought. While the primary aim was religious, the unintended consequence was the creation of an intellectual class that would later play a key role.

89. (C) Demonstrating the superiority of Western civilization.
The promotion of modern science, technology, and medicine by the British was part of a broader civilizing mission ideology. By showcasing advanced knowledge and infrastructure, colonial rulers sought to demonstrate the supposed superiority of Western civilization over traditional Indian systems. This ideology was used to justify British rule, arguing it was bringing progress to a backward society, while benefits remained highly concentrated and imperial.

90. (A) The demands raised by women's organisations for political representation and legal rights.

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The printing press was instrumental in creating an all-India public opinion because it enabled the rapid dissemination of news and ideas across linguistic and regional boundaries. Newspapers and journals provided a platform for nationalist leaders to critique colonial policies and share their vision for a future independent India. By connecting the educated elite across the country, the press helped build a shared political consciousness.

58. (A) The inflexible and high land revenue demand of the colonial state.
The primary cause of rural indebtedness was the heavy and inflexible land revenue demand imposed by the British government. Unlike traditional systems where revenue often fluctuated based on crop yields, the colonial state demanded fixed payments in cash, regardless of harvest conditions. This forced peasants to borrow money from local moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates to meet tax obligations, leading to a cycle of debt.

59. (D) The sanitary and quarantine measures were often intrusive and culturally insensitive.
The colonial government's response to outbreaks of plague and cholera often triggered public anger because the methods used were perceived as overly intrusive and disrespectful. Measures such as house searches and forced evacuations were carried out by officials who frequently ignored the privacy and religious sentiments of the people. This cultural insensitivity led to widespread suspicion and sometimes violent resistance against the government's initiatives.

60. (A) P, Q, and R only
Artisans in colonial India faced severe economic hardship due to several interconnected factors. They lost the traditional patronage of the princely courts and the nobility, which had been the primary market for their goods. Additionally, they could not compete with the low prices of machine-made textiles imported from Britain. This process of de-industrialization forced many artisans to abandon their crafts and join landless labor.

61. (C) Create a class of Indians who were Western in intellect and morals.
The British administration promoted English education with the specific goal of creating a loyal and Westernized class of Indians. As famously stated in Macaulay's Minute, the aim was to produce a group of people who were Indian in blood and color, but English in taste, opinions, morals, and intellect. This class was intended to serve as a bridge between the rulers and subjects.

62. (D) Economic drain, de-industrialization, and poverty.
Early Indian nationalist economic thought was centered on a deep critique of British colonial rule. Nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji and Romesh Chunder Dutt highlighted how British policies led to the continuous drain of India's wealth to Great Britain. They also analyzed the process of de-industrialization and the destruction of traditional crafts, arguing that these factors were the primary causes of widespread poverty and frequent famines.

63. (A) The seamless integration of European and Indian residential areas.
New urban centers developed by the British were characterized by rigid racial and social segregation. The European population lived in well-planned, sanitary areas known as Civil Lines and Cantonments, while the native Indian population was relegated to congested and often neglected parts of the city. There was no integration; instead, the physical layout reflected the hierarchical relationship between the colonial rulers and the subjects.

64. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
Modern industries like cotton and jute were concentrated in specific regions primarily due to the availability of raw materials and proximity to major ports. However, this regional concentration was not part of a planned government policy to ensure balanced development. On the contrary, the colonial government largely followed a policy of laissez-faire, showing little interest in promoting equitable industrial growth across different parts of India.

65. (B) Serve military, administrative, and commercial needs, often complementing the railways.
The development of road transport under the British was primarily aimed at enhancing the

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in areas like science and technology only when it served practical needs such as surveying for resources. In social matters, they were often cautious and avoided intervening in traditional customs and family structures unless pressured by Indian reformers or British interests.

99. (C) The opportunities and challenges presented by the colonial socio-economic structure.
The formation of caste associations was a response to the changes brought about by British rule. The new legal system, the census, and modern education created opportunities for social mobility that did not exist before. Various groups organized themselves to claim a higher status in official records and to compete for government jobs. These associations allowed communities to navigate the challenges of the colonial environment while seeking status.

100. (B) The extent and nature of reform needed, often balancing modernity and tradition.
The debate among Indian nationalists and reformers regarding women's rights was complex. While there was a consensus that the status of women needed to be improved through education and legislation, there was significant disagreement over the extent of these reforms. Most reformers sought to balance modern ideas of equality with the preservation of tradition and family life, leading to a cautious approach toward radical social change.

101. (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
The timeline of major reform events begins with the establishment of the Brahmo Samaj in 1828. This was followed by the founding of the Arya Samaj by Dayananda Saraswati in 1875. Swami Vivekananda's famous address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago took place in 1893. Shortly after his return to India, he officially founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to carry out social service.

102. (B) Murshidabad, Surat, Dacca
The process of de-urbanisation in the early nineteenth century primarily affected traditional administrative and commercial centers. Cities like Murshidabad, Surat, and Dacca saw a significant decline in their population and economic importance. This was due to the collapse of local industries under British competition and the relocation of the centers of power and trade to the new colonial port cities being developed by the administration.

103. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
During the colonial era, India's foreign trade was intentionally reoriented to serve the interests of Great Britain. India became a source of raw materials for British factories and a market for finished products. This shift was not a natural economic development; rather, it was the result of deliberate colonial policies, including discriminatory tariffs and railway construction, that forced the economy into a subordinate relationship with Britain.

104. (A) Land becoming a commodity that could be easily transferred, often leading to peasant dispossession.
The commercialization of agriculture and the new British legal framework transformed land into a commodity that could be bought, sold, or mortgaged. This led to a significant increase in land transfers, as peasants who could not pay high revenue or debts were forced to sell holdings. This process resulted in the large-scale dispossession of small cultivators and the concentration of land ownership in the hands of moneylenders.

105. (C) Justify British rule over India under the guise of a 'civilizing mission'.
British colonial officials and Christian missionaries often highlighted the social and religious problems of Indian society, such as the caste system. This critique was frequently used to argue that India was a backward society needing the guidance of a superior power. By portraying themselves as bringing enlightenment and progress, the British used this civilizing mission ideology to justify and maintain their colonial authority over the subcontinent.

106. (A) Form a class of persons to act as interpreters between the rulers and the ruled.
Thomas Babington Macaulay's Minute on Education in 1835 laid the foundation for modern English education in India. Its primary goal was not to educate the masses but to create a small, elite group of Indians who were Western in intellect. This class was intended to serve as loyal intermediaries between the British rulers and the

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did not fundamentally challenge the patriarchal structures of society.

123. (D) Political commentary, social critique, and realistic fiction.
As literary forms modernized, vernacular languages began to be used for a wide variety of contemporary purposes beyond traditional poetry. Writers used their native languages to publish newspapers and journals featuring sharp political commentary and social critique. The development of prose allowed for the rise of realistic fiction, including novels that explored the daily lives and struggles of ordinary people, making literature a powerful tool.

124. (B) A contradictory process of stimulating some industries while causing widespread inflation and hardship.
The World Wars had a mixed and contradictory effect on India's economic development. On one hand, the disruption of imports and the demand for war supplies provided a temporary boost to certain domestic industries like textiles and steel. On the other hand, the massive increase in war-related expenditure led to severe inflation, shortages of essential goods, and widespread economic hardship. This lopsided growth was not sustainable.

125. (A) P and Q only
Peasant and tribal movements were typically localized struggles directed against immediate forms of exploitation. Peasant uprisings often targeted the high rents and illegal exactions of zamindars or the debt traps of moneylenders. Tribal revolts were usually a reaction to the loss of their traditional lands and forest rights. While these movements were widespread, they were not always non-violent; many involved spontaneous resistance against oppressive structures.

126. (D) The socially constructed roles, behaviours, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women.
In the context of the debates on the status of women, gender identity refers to the way society defines appropriate roles and behaviors for men and women. During the colonial period, reformers and nationalists were actively engaged in redefining these roles, often creating a new ideal of the educated Indian woman. This process involved a constant negotiation between modern ideas of equality and traditional values in society.

127. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The British introduced the printing press to facilitate efficient administration and the spread of their own ideas. However, the technology also provided Indian nationalists with a powerful means of resistance. It allowed them to publish newspapers that reached a large audience, providing critiques of British rule and mobilizing public support. Thus, while the press served the state, it also became a tool for challenging colonial authority.

128. (B) Subject to periodic revision, usually upwards.
In the Ryotwari system, the state entered into a direct agreement with individual cultivators. Unlike the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, the land revenue was not fixed forever. Instead, it was subject to periodic reassessment and revision, typically every twenty or thirty years. In practice, these revisions almost always resulted in a substantial increase in the revenue demand, placing a heavy and often unbearable financial burden on peasants.

129. (B) The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the influx of cheaper manufactured goods.
The primary cause of de-industrialization and the subsequent decline of traditional urban centers was the impact of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. Following the policy of free trade, cheap, machine-made textiles and other products from British factories flooded the Indian market. Local artisans could not compete with the low prices and massive scale of these imports. This led to the collapse of local industries and urban decay.

130. (A) Enacted primarily due to pressure from Lancashire manufacturers who feared competition from cheap Indian labour.
The early Indian Factory Acts were not solely driven by a humanitarian concern for Indian workers. Instead, they were often the result of pressure from textile manufacturers in Lancashire, England. These British businessmen feared that the unregulated use of cheap labor and long working hours in Indian mills gave their competitors an unfair advantage. By lobbying for

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115. (C) Create a modern art form that was uniquely Indian in spirit and theme.
The Bengal School of Art, emerging in the early twentieth century, was a conscious reaction against Western academic realism. The artists of this school sought to create a modern Indian style by drawing inspiration from ancient Indian traditions, such as the frescoes of Ajanta. Their work focused on Indian myths, legends, and historical themes, aiming to express a spiritual and national identity through art that was uniquely Indian.

116. (D) British investment in Indian infrastructure like railways and canals.
The theory of economic drain focused on the unilateral transfer of wealth from India to Britain without any equivalent return. This included home charges, pensions, and the profits of foreign companies. While British investment in railways and canals was a major feature, it was not technically part of the drain itself. However, nationalists critiqued these investments because the interest payments on the capital used were significant.

117. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
The volume of India's foreign trade did grow substantially during the colonial period due to modern transport and integration into the global market. However, this growth primarily benefited British commercial and industrial interests. The structure of this trade, involving the export of raw materials and the import of finished goods, often led to the decline of traditional industries and did not result in widespread national prosperity.

118. (B) The revenue demand was often very high and rigidly collected, forcing ryots to borrow from moneylenders.
Although the Ryotwari system eliminated the middleman and established a direct relationship between the state and the cultivator, it failed to improve the economic condition of peasants. The revenue demand set by the British was often excessively high and was collected with great rigidity. This forced many ryots to borrow from moneylenders at high interest rates to pay their taxes, leading to a permanent cycle of rural debt.

119. (D) The financial and administrative neglect of Indian localities by the colonial authorities.
The inadequate civic services in native Indian sections of colonial cities were a direct result of deliberate government policy. The colonial administration prioritized the funding and maintenance of European residential areas. The Indian localities, despite being heavily taxed, received very little investment in sanitation, water supply, or road maintenance. This systemic neglect led to poor living conditions and frequent health crises in the areas where the majority lived.

120. (A) Medical colleges were established to train Indians primarily to serve in lower-level subordinate roles in the medical services.
While the British established medical colleges in India, their primary goal was to train a large number of Indians to serve in the lower levels of the medical services. Senior administrative positions were largely reserved for British medical officers. The education in these institutions was based on Western systems, and there was little effort to integrate modern medicine with traditional Indian practices like Ayurveda for the general public.

121. (C) A period of intense intellectual and cultural ferment and a questioning of the past.
The term Indian Renaissance is used to describe the nineteenth-century awakening because it involved a fundamental re-examination of Indian society and culture. Like the European Renaissance, it was characterized by a spirit of critical inquiry and the promotion of rationalism. This period saw a questioning of traditional orthodoxies and the emergence of new ideas about individual rights and national identity, marking the transition to modernity.

122. (A) The attainment of limited franchise and some personal law reforms, but still far from equality.
By the end of British rule, the legal and political status of women had seen some improvement, but it was still far from achieving full equality. Women had gained a limited right to vote, although it was based on restrictive qualifications. Some legislative changes had been made to address issues like child marriage. However, these reforms were often cautious and

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The political and legal status of women began to change as women themselves organized and demanded rights. During the early twentieth century, various women's associations petitioned for the right to vote and for reforms in personal laws. These efforts, linked to the nationalist movement, forced the colonial government to gradually grant limited franchise and consider legislative changes, laying the groundwork for equality achieved after independence.

91. (A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Various terms describe the colonial socio-economic structure. Dikus was a term used by tribal groups to refer to exploitative outsiders. A Ryot refers to an individual peasant cultivator holding land. A Mahal was a revenue unit consisting of a village. Economic Drain describes the systematic and unilateral transfer of India's wealth and resources to Great Britain for which the country received no return.

92. (B) The standardization of grammar and script for vernacular languages.
The printing press played a crucial role in standardizing various Indian languages. To produce books and newspapers for a wider audience, it was necessary to establish uniform rules for grammar and script. This process helped in moving away from diverse regional dialects and creating standardized vernacular languages. These standardized languages became the primary vehicles for modern literature, journalism, and political discourse across different regions.

93. (C) A decrease in India's public debt.
The World Wars had a profound impact on the Indian economy, but they did not lead to a decrease in public debt. On the contrary, the massive expenditure related to the war efforts significantly increased financial obligations. While India accumulated sterling balances because Britain purchased goods for the war, the overall public debt of the colonial government continued to grow due to high administrative costs.

94. (D) To serve the strategic, administrative, and economic interests of the Empire.
The British invested in the transport network primarily to strengthen their grip on India. The railways allowed for the rapid deployment of troops to suppress any internal rebellions and protect the borders. Economically, the network was designed to facilitate the extraction of raw materials from the interior to the ports and the distribution of British manufactured goods. These strategic and commercial priorities were the driving force.

95. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The nineteenth-century reform movements were essential for the development of modern India because they initiated a deep critique of traditional orthodoxies. By promoting the values of rationalism, humanism, and social equality, these movements created an intellectual environment that challenged the basis of colonial authority as well as internal social evils. This awakening provided the necessary cultural foundations upon which the later nationalist movement was built.

96. (B) The Mahalwari system was prevalent in the North-Western Provinces and parts of Central India.
British land revenue systems were regionally specific. The Mahalwari system, where the unit of assessment was the village or estate (mahal), was implemented in the North-Western Provinces and parts of Central India. The Permanent Settlement was limited to Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. In the Ryotwari system, prevalent in the South and West, the state dealt directly with individual cultivators rather than the village community.

97. (B) Dadabhai Naoroji
Dadabhai Naoroji was the first person to systematically articulate the theory of the economic drain. In his famous book, "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India," he used detailed statistics to show how India's wealth was being siphoned off to Britain through salaries, pensions, and trade profits. His analysis provided the nationalist movement with a powerful economic critique of colonial rule and became a central theme.

98. (B) Q and R only
The British did not pursue a comprehensive project to modernize India. Instead, their approach was highly selective and driven by colonial interests. They promoted modernism

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factory laws, they hoped to increase production costs for Indian manufacturers.

131. (C) The policy of economic drain.
The colonial government's manipulation of the rupee-sterling exchange rate was a subtle but effective mechanism for the economic drain of India. By fixing the rupee at an artificially high value relative to the pound, the government ensured that India had to export more agricultural goods to earn sterling needed for charges. This policy also made British imports cheaper in India, thus harming local industries and siphoning off wealth.

132. (D) A symbol of imperial power and permanence.
The design and construction of New Delhi were intended to visually manifest the absolute power and authority of the British Raj. The use of monumental architecture, vast open spaces, and wide, symmetrical boulevards was a conscious statement of imperial grandeur and stability. This grand design was meant to create an environment that would reinforce the legitimacy and permanence of British rule in the eyes of the native population.

133. (C) The Famine Codes.
Over time, the British moved away from ad-hoc responses to famines toward a more systematic administrative framework. Following the recommendations of various famine commissions in the late nineteenth century, the government formulated the Famine Codes. These codes provided detailed instructions for local officials on how to recognize signs of a food crisis and what specific steps should be taken to organize relief works and provide aid to the population.

134. (B) The Birsa Munda Uprising
The Birsa Munda Uprising was a major tribal revolt that took place in the Chota Nagpur region at the end of the nineteenth century. Led by Birsa Munda, the movement was a powerful reaction against the encroachment of the British government and outsiders on traditional lands and forest rights. It sought to drive out the exploiters and establish an independent tribal raj, making it a prominent example of resistance.

135. (D) Indian social reformers to address issues like caste and the status of women.
The sharp and often biased critiques of Indian society by Christian missionaries served as a catalyst for internal social reform. By highlighting practices like sati and the injustices of the caste system, they challenged Indian thinkers to respond. Rather than converting to Christianity, many Indian reformers were motivated to seek solutions within their own cultural frameworks, leading to a vibrant movement for social justice and modernization.

136. (A) Proposed a systematic educational system from primary to university level.
Wood's Despatch of 1854 is often called the Magna Carta of modern education in India because it provided a comprehensive plan for a tiered educational structure. It recommended the establishment of primary schools, high schools, and universities modeled on the University of London. The despatch also introduced the system of grants-in-aid to support private institutions and emphasized teacher training and female education, marking a significant step forward.

137. (C) The advocacy for the restoration of princely states.
The socio-religious reform movements of the Indian Renaissance were primarily focused on the internal modernization of society rather than political restoration. Reformers sought to eliminate social evils like sati and improve the status of women and lower castes. They used modern rationalism to critique religious superstitions. However, they generally did not advocate for the return of pre-colonial political structures, focusing instead on social awakening and individual rights.

138. (A) Advocated for women's education but within the confines of their domestic roles.
The nationalist approach to women's rights was often contradictory. While nationalists strongly supported female education and the abolition of social evils, they did so within a framework that emphasized traditional domestic values. They argued that educated women would be better mothers and wives who could contribute to the nation from within the home. This new patriarchy advocated for social improvement while ensuring women's roles remained primarily focused on domesticity.

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in parts of southern and western India. The Economic Drain was a central theme in the nationalist critique of the colonial economy. Finally, the Factory Acts were the first rudimentary pieces of labor legislation aimed at regulating working conditions.

171. (D) The creation of a standing fund and specific procedures for declaring famine.
The Famine Codes were established to provide a standardized administrative response to the threat of food shortages. They moved beyond ad-hoc measures by recommending the creation of permanent famine relief funds and setting out specific criteria for when a famine should be officially declared. These codes were intended to ensure that local officials acted promptly and followed established guidelines for providing relief work and aid to affected populations during a food crisis.

172. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The colonial education policy, which prioritized English as the medium for higher learning, created a significant social and cultural divide in India. By focusing on a small, elite group, the system fostered the growth of a class of English-educated urbanites who were increasingly disconnected from the rest of the population. This downward filtration approach left the vast majority of people uneducated or educated only in vernacular languages, creating a deep social gap.

173. (C) Attempted to reform and rationalize Indian traditions in the light of modern ideas.
The reform movements of the Indian Renaissance were not about rejecting heritage or blindly following the West. Instead, reformers sought to rationalize their traditional religious and social practices. They used modern values like reason and social justice to critique and remove outdated customs from within their own cultural frameworks. Their goal was to create a modern Indian society that was both rooted in its traditions and capable of progressing in the modern world.

174. (D) Provided a platform for women to articulate their specific demands and upliftment.
The emergence of independent women's organizations was a crucial development because it allowed women to speak for themselves and lead their own movements for change. These organizations provided a vital platform for identifying and discussing issues that specifically affected women, such as the need for education and legal reform. By mobilizing women and articulating their demands, these groups played a key role in the struggle for social justice and status improvement.

175. (A) The exclusive use of Sanskrit for all literary expression.
The modernisation of Indian languages involved a move away from the exclusive use of classical languages like Sanskrit for literary work. Instead, writers began to develop and use various vernacular languages to express modern ideas and social concerns. This process included the standardization of grammar, the rise of prose writing, and the adoption of new genres such as the novel. These changes made literature more realistic and accessible to the growing educated middle class.

176. (B) It weakened the traditional bonds of the village community by introducing individual property rights.
The introduction of British land rights had a disruptive effect on the traditional structure of Indian villages. By establishing the legal concept of land as individual private property that could be bought and sold, the new system undermined communal aspects of land management. This shift toward individualism, combined with the pressure of high revenue demands, weakened the social and economic bonds that had traditionally held the village community together, leading to increased social stratification.

177. (B) A focus on consumer goods like textiles and sugar.
The industrialization process in colonial India was lopsided and limited in scope. Most of the modern industries that developed, such as cotton and jute textiles, sugar, and paper, were focused on producing consumer goods. There was a conspicuous lack of heavy and capital goods industries, like machinery and chemicals, necessary for self-sustained industrial growth. This pattern was a direct result of colonial policies

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The timeline for labor-related developments in colonial India begins with the first Factories Act in 1881. This was followed several decades later by the formation of the All-India Trade Union Congress in 1920. The Workmen's Compensation Act was passed in 1923 to provide relief to injured workers. Finally, the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 was enacted, which granted legal status and specific protections to registered trade unions.

148. (D) Serving as health resorts and summer capitals for the British rulers.
Hill stations like Shimla and Ooty were developed by the British to provide a cool retreat from the heat and disease-prone environment of the Indian plains. These urban centers were designed to mimic the climate and landscape of Europe and served as important health resorts for officials. Many hill stations eventually became the official summer capitals of the colonial government, where the entire administration would move for several months.

149. (C) There was a complex interplay of continuity and change, with new ideas challenging old structures.
The phrase Indian Society in Transition captures the dynamic nature of the colonial period. It was not a time of complete Westernization nor one of total stagnation. Instead, it was a period where traditional structures and norms coexisted and often collided with new ideas and technologies introduced by British rule. This interaction led to a complex process of change where ancient traditions were being re-evaluated to meet modern challenges.

150. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
While many peasant and tribal revolts were initially directed against local exploiters like zamindars, they were essentially anti-colonial in nature. This is because the local oppressors were often protected by the colonial state's legal system. When peasants challenged their immediate masters, they invariably came into conflict with the police and military. Thus, the struggle for social justice was inextricably linked to the struggle against foreign British rule.

151. (D) Fostering a sense of national unity among the educated elite from different regions.
The British introduced English education primarily to create a loyal class of administrative subordinates. However, this policy had a powerful and unintended consequence. By providing a common language and a shared curriculum based on modern Western thought, it allowed the educated elite from different parts of the country to communicate. This class became the primary vehicle for spreading ideas of nationalism, eventually leading the movement to overthrow colonial rule.

152. (A) It provided the primary leadership for the movement.
The new middle class, consisting of Western-educated professionals and government employees, played a crucial role in the development of Indian nationalism. This group possessed the organizational skills and understanding of modern political processes to challenge colonial rule. They founded the major political associations and formulated the ideological critiques of the British Raj. As the primary leadership, they were instrumental in mobilizing public opinion and directing the struggle for national independence.

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153. (D) All of the above.
Caste mobility during the colonial period involved a variety of strategies. Many groups practiced Sanskritization by adopting the rituals and customs of higher castes to improve their social standing. Others formed formal caste associations to petition the government for better jobs and higher status in official census records. Additionally, many communities created or revived origin myths that claimed a historically superior status. Together, these methods aimed at achieving upward mobility.

154. (A) The restraint of child marriage.
The Sarda Act, officially known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929, was a significant piece of social legislation in colonial India. Named after Harbilas Sarda, the act aimed to curb the widespread practice of early marriage. It fixed the minimum age of marriage for girls at fourteen. While the law was difficult to enforce, it represented a major victory for social reformers and a step toward improving women's status.

155. (D) The educated middle class and urban elites.

to a critique of the caste system and advocacy for women's rights, including education and remarriage. Central to their project was a belief in rationalism and humanism. However, they did not call for a return to ancient political structures, focusing on modernization.

201. (C) Pressure from rival British manufacturers and official commissions of inquiry.
The history of factory legislation in India shows that the government was rarely proactive. Instead, laws were typically passed following public pressure or findings of official commissions. A significant source of this pressure came from British manufacturers in the textile industry of Lancashire. These rivals were concerned that unregulated cheap labor in Indian mills gave them an unfair advantage. Consequently, they lobbied the government to introduce factory laws in India to equalize the competitive trade conditions.

202. (A) The coexistence of European-style 'Presidency Banks' and traditional indigenous bankers.
The financial system in colonial India was a dual structure. On one hand, the British established modern-style institutions like the Presidency Banks to handle government business and large-scale commerce. On the other hand, traditional indigenous banking systems, run by various merchant communities, continued to play a vital role. These traditional bankers provided the bulk of credit for internal trade and agriculture, as the modern banks primarily served European commercial and industrial interests during the period.

203. (D) Lack of employment opportunities.
While colonial cities faced many severe urban problems, a lack of employment was generally not one of them. In fact, it was the promise of work in factories, the port, the growing administration, and as domestic servants that drew millions of migrants from rural areas. The real problem was the quality of this employment, which was low-paid. This massive influx of labor, combined with inadequate planning, directly led to other urban crises like extreme overcrowding.

204. (B) Financial constraints and the prioritization of other administrative expenses.
The colonial government's response to deadly epidemics was often inadequate because of its financial priorities. The state was heavily burdened by military expenditures and the costs of its own administration. Consequently, very little money was allocated for public health and preventive medicine for the general population. While some measures were taken to protect British personnel, the lack of a comprehensive healthcare system meant the state could not effectively manage large-scale health crises among native Indians.

205. (C) The standards and values of 19th-century Victorian Britain.
The criticism of Indian social and religious life by British officials and missionaries was almost always based on the moral standards of their own society. They used nineteenth-century Victorian values—emphasizing their own brand of rationality and monotheism—as the universal benchmark to judge Indian traditions. This ethnocentric approach often led to a failure to understand the complex historical meanings behind Indian practices, portraying them instead as inherently backward and in need of reform by superior power.

206. (D) A systematic promotion of indigenous scientific traditions.
The colonial education policy, as outlined in Macaulay's Minute, was focused on the promotion of Western knowledge and the English language. It aimed to create a tiered system from primary vernacular schools to English-medium universities. The primary goal was to provide a literary and administrative education to serve the needs of the colonial state. There was no systematic effort to study or promote indigenous scientific traditions, which were often dismissed as inferior by the ruling British administration.

207. (A) It often involved adopting the practices of higher castes while simultaneously challenging the old hierarchy.
Caste mobility in the colonial period was a complex and often contradictory process. Many groups sought to raise their status through Sanskritization, which involved adopting the rituals of upper castes, thereby showing respect for the traditional hierarchy. At the same time, they used modern political methods—such

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lack of government protection, led to numerous localized peasant uprisings.

163. (C) Defensive and reformist responses from Indian religious leaders.
The persistent criticism of Indian religious practices by Christian missionaries forced Indian religious leaders to engage in a process of self-defense and internal reform. This encounter led to the emergence of movements that sought to interpret their faiths in more rational and monotheistic ways, often by returning to ancient texts like the Vedas. These reformist responses were a key part of the intellectual awakening that defined the nineteenth-century Indian Renaissance.

164. (D) Urban centers, cantonments, and civil lines.
The colonial government's investment in public health and medical facilities was highly selective and geographically concentrated. The primary goal was to ensure the health and efficiency of the British military and civilian administration. As a result, modern sanitation and hospitals were mainly provided in urban centers, particularly in the well-planned areas known as Cantonments and Civil Lines. The vast majority of the Indian population living in rural areas received very little benefit.

165. (C) The debate and discourse surrounding the status and reform of the condition of women in Indian society.
In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the women's question referred to the intense social and political debate about the place of women in Indian society. This discourse was triggered by both external criticism from colonial officials and internal efforts of Indian social reformers. The focus was on identifying and eliminating social practices considered oppressive, such as sati and child marriage, and on promoting female education as a means of social upliftment.

166. (B) It democratized the spread of information beyond a small circle of elites.
The introduction of the printing press significantly changed how knowledge and information were shared in India. Before the press, education was often restricted to small, elite groups through expensive hand-written manuscripts. The press made it possible to produce books and newspapers in large quantities and at a lower cost. This democratization of information allowed a wider section of the population to access new ideas, participate in social debates, and form a shared opinion.

167. (D) The cultivation of crops for sale in the market rather than for self-use.
Commercialization of agriculture refers to the shift in farming from subsistence production to the cultivation of crops specifically for sale in the marketplace. Under colonial rule, this process was accelerated as the government demanded revenue in cash and British industry required raw materials. Consequently, many peasants stopped growing food for their families and instead focused on producing cash crops for international markets, often increasing their personal economic risk and instability.

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168. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The decline of traditional handicraft industries was a central feature of the colonial economy and is often referred to as de-industrialization. This process was driven by several factors, including the loss of patronage from the Indian nobility and the impact of the British policy of free trade. Hand-made Indian textiles could not compete with the low prices of machine-made products imported from Britain. This led to the displacement of millions of artisans.

169. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
The first few Factory Acts introduced by the British government in India were very basic and limited in their application. They focused primarily on the most vulnerable workers, such as young children, by setting a minimum age for employment and limiting daily working hours. However, these laws were strictly confined to large-scale industrial factories and did not apply to other sectors like agriculture where the majority of the workforce continued to labor without protection.

170. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Various colonial policies and systems can be categorized by their economic impact. The Post and Telegraph system was a key development in the sector of communications. Ryotwari was a specific type of land settlement implemented

Although the press in colonial India was vibrant and critical, its reach was primarily limited to the literate population. Consequently, the public opinion formed through newspapers and journals was largely that of the Western-educated middle class and urban elites. This group used the press to debate social reforms, critique colonial economic policies, and articulate nationalist aspirations. This opinion became a powerful force that the British government could not simply ignore.

156. (B) A focus on individual psychology and social realism.
The move toward modernism in Indian literature was marked by a departure from traditional mythological and devotional themes. Authors began to use the newly developed prose forms to explore the complexities of human psychology and the realities of contemporary social life. This focus on realistic portrayals of society, including its inequalities, reflected a modern perspective that sought to address the actual problems and experiences of people in a changing colonial environment.

157. (C) Increase in the export of heavy machinery from India.
The colonial transformation of the Indian economy did not involve the development of a heavy machinery export sector. Instead, the change in the composition of trade was characterized by India becoming an exporter of primary agricultural products and raw materials. At the same time, India became a major importer of finished industrial goods, including textiles and machinery. The lack of heavy industry was a result of British policies prioritizing their own interests.

158. (D) The dispossession of small peasants and ruined artisans.
The number of landless agricultural laborers increased significantly under British rule due to the negative impact of colonial economic policies. Many small peasants lost their land when they were unable to pay high land revenue or defaulted on loans. Simultaneously, the decline of traditional handicraft industries left millions of artisans without a livelihood. With no other alternative, these dispossessed groups were forced to work as wage laborers in the agricultural sector.

159. (A) It was accompanied by the rise of new colonial port cities.
The process of de-urbanisation in nineteenth-century India was not a uniform decline of all urban areas. While traditional centers like Murshidabad decayed due to the loss of patronage and competition from British goods, new cities were emerging elsewhere. The British developed the major port cities of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras to serve as centers for trade and administration. These new colonial cities grew rapidly as primary hubs for the extractive relationship.

160. (B) P, Q, and R only
British monetary policy focused on creating a uniform coinage and financial system to facilitate administration and trade across India. However, the policy was also used to benefit British interests by manipulating the exchange rate between the rupee and the pound sterling. These manipulations, along with other colonial financial burdens, often led to currency instability and economic crises. The system was dominated by British-controlled financial institutions prioritizing European commercial needs.

161. (B) Indian, Islamic, and Western elements.
Indo-Saracenic architecture was a unique hybrid style developed by British architects in colonial India. It intentionally blended traditional Indian and Islamic architectural features—such as domes and minarets—with European Gothic and Neoclassical designs. This architectural fusion was intended to create a sense of continuity between the new British Raj and earlier empires, providing a grand visual language for major public buildings like the Gateway of India in Bombay.

162. (A) The eviction from land and the high rates of rent demanded by zamindars.
Peasant unrest in colonial India was primarily driven by economic exploitation and the insecurity of land tenure. In many areas, particularly those under the Zamindari system, landlords frequently increased the rates of rent and used illegal exactions to squeeze more income. When peasants could not pay, they faced the constant threat of eviction from traditional lands. These harsh conditions, combined with the

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that sought to prevent India from becoming an industrial competitor.

178. (A) Unify the country administratively and economically for colonial purposes.
The development of modern transport infrastructure was a key tool for the British to consolidate their control over India. The railways and roads created an integrated network that allowed for the rapid movement of troops to maintain order and for the efficient administration of a vast territory. Economically, this network linked the interior agricultural areas to major ports, facilitating the export of raw materials and the distribution of British goods, thus unifying the country.

179. (C) A massive influx of impoverished rural migrants seeking employment.
The growth of colonial cities was accompanied by severe social and environmental challenges. These problems were significantly worsened by the continuous migration of impoverished people from rural areas who were searching for work in the urban centers. The existing infrastructure of the native Indian parts of the city was completely inadequate to handle this rapid population increase. This led to extreme overcrowding, the proliferation of slums, and a lack of basic civic services.

180. (B) P, Q, and R only
Early British responses to famines were often delayed and ineffective due to a strict adherence to the laissez-faire principle of non-interference. However, after the devastating famines of the late nineteenth century, the government established commissions that led to the creation of the Famine Codes. These codes provided a more structured system for providing relief work and aid. Despite these improvements, the Bengal Famine of 1943 was a major failure, where mismanagement led to millions of deaths.

181. (C) Often spontaneous, localised, and violent in their initial stages.
While tribal and peasant movements were diverse, they shared several key characteristics. They were typically triggered by immediate local grievances, such as high taxes, debt, or the loss of land. Most of these movements began as spontaneous and unorganized uprisings of the affected communities. Lacking a formal political structure or national-level leadership in the early stages, these revolts often turned to violent resistance against immediate oppressors, such as landlords and moneylenders.

182. (B) A process of introspection and re-evaluation of their own beliefs by Indian thinkers.
The encounter with Christianity and the work of missionaries had a profound impact on Indian thought. By offering an egalitarian message and critiquing traditional practices like caste, missionaries challenged Indian intellectuals to re-examine their own traditions. This led not to mass conversion but to a process of internal reflection and reform. Indian thinkers sought to remove social evils from within their own religions, leading to a revitalization of culture and a move toward modernization.

183. (D) A selective adoption of Western ideas, institutions, and technologies.
The modernization of India during the colonial period was a complex and selective process. It did not involve a total rejection of the past nor an across-the-board adoption of everything Western. Instead, Indian society selectively incorporated elements of Western thought, such as rationalism and nationalism, along with new institutions like the modern legal system and technologies. This selective adaptation was a creative response to the challenges of colonial rule, aiming to reform society from within.

184. (A) Securing access to education and government jobs for their members.
As the colonial socio-economic structure changed, many caste groups organized themselves into associations to better compete for the new opportunities being created. These organizations focused on practical goals that would improve the social and economic standing of their members. They petitioned the government for better educational facilities and a greater share of government jobs, and they worked to ensure that their castes were accurately represented in the census, which became a key social tool.

185. (C) Established the principle that the state could legislate on social reform.
British laws such as the abolition of sati were significant because they marked a fundamental

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change in the relationship between the state and society. By intervening in traditional customs, the colonial government established the important principle that the state had authority to legislate for social reform. This provided a crucial precedent and a legal framework that Indian social reformers could then use to advocate for further changes, even if the government was often hesitant to act.

186. (A) The adaptation of traditional performances to new venues like the urban stage.
The reorientation of the arts in colonial India involved a shift from traditional settings to modern public spaces in urban areas. Classical music and theater forms were adapted for performance in ticketed concerts and on the modern, urban, proscenium stage. This transition led to changes in performance styles and allowed for a more diverse audience. It also marked the beginning of professionalization of the arts in the burgeoning colonial cities, moving away from private patronage.

187. (D) An increase in volume and a shift towards Britain.
The colonial period was characterized by a major growth in the total volume of India's foreign trade as it became integrated into the global economy. However, the direction of this trade was increasingly restricted and reoriented toward Great Britain. Through various commercial mechanisms, the British ensured they became India's dominant trading partner. This relationship transformed India into a primary supplier of raw materials for British industry and a captive market for finished industrial products from the West.

188. (B) Regional specialization of crops based on market demand.
As agriculture became more commercialized, different regions of India began to specialize in the production of specific crops in high demand in the national and international markets. For example, Bengal became a major producer of jute, while parts of the Deccan specialized in cotton. This regional specialization was driven by the profit motive and colonial industrial needs, but it also made these regions more dependent on market fluctuations and often compromised local food self-sufficiency.

189. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
Following World War I, the British government introduced a policy of discriminating protection, which allowed for protective tariffs on certain Indian industries. However, this shift was not a purely benevolent act to promote Indian development. It was a pragmatic response to several factors, including the need to raise more revenue and political pressure from nationalists. The protection granted was often limited and conditional, ensuring it did not seriously damage major industrial interests in Britain.

190. (C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Key historical figures led various movements and formulated influential ideas. Dadabhai Naoroji is famous for his theory of the drain of wealth. Birsa Munda led the great tumult, a major tribal uprising against colonial and feudal exploitation. Jyotiba Phule was a pioneer in the critique of the caste system and promotion of education for the lower castes. Raja Ram Mohan Roy is known for his advocacy of monotheism and successful campaign against the practice.

191. (A) The colonial state.
The primary function of the post and telegraph system was to enhance the administrative and military efficiency of the British Raj. By allowing for the rapid and reliable transmission of orders across vast distances, these technologies significantly improved the colonial state's ability to maintain control over its territory. This capability was crucial for managing a large empire and coordinating the activities of the government, thus strengthening the power of the central colonial authority in India.

192. (B) It was a homogenous society with no class or caste distinctions.
Urban society in colonial India was far from homogenous. It was characterized by sharp social and economic divisions. The new cities saw the emergence of a clear hierarchy, ranging from the European elite and the Western-educated middle class to the vast numbers of impoverished industrial workers. Furthermore, traditional caste and religious identities continued to play a significant role in urban life, often influencing residential patterns and social associations, making it a highly stratified society.

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193. (B) The immediate sources of oppression, such as zamindars, moneylenders, and planters.
Peasant movements in the colonial era were typically directed against people directly responsible for their day-to-day hardships. Their primary targets were local zamindars who imposed high rents, moneylenders who trapped them in debt, and European planters who forced them to grow unprofitable crops like indigo. While these struggles ultimately challenged the colonial system, the peasants' immediate goal was to resist exploitation by these local intermediaries and protect their traditional livelihoods and agricultural land.

194. (A) Its neglect of mass education and promotion of a literary education that produced clerks.
Indian nationalists criticized the British education system for being elitist and disconnected from the needs of the country. They argued that by focusing on a small minority, the government completely neglected the education of the masses. Furthermore, the curriculum was criticized for being overly literary and aimed at producing low-level clerks for the colonial administration, rather than providing the scientific and technical training necessary for the genuine industrial and economic development of the Indian nation.

195. (C) Colonial urban centers.
The emergence of the new middle class was a phenomenon that was almost entirely concentrated in the major colonial cities like Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. These urban centers were the hubs of British administration and Western-style education. It was in these cities that opportunities for modern professions—such as law, medicine, teaching, and government service—were available, leading to the growth of a social group that derived its status from education rather than traditional ownership.

196. (C) A is true but R is false.
While it is true that women's organizations in the early twentieth century began to demand political rights, this was not an automatic result of nationalist discourse. Although nationalists glorified women as the mothers of the nation, this was often used to restrict them to a modernized domestic role. Political equality was not a given; instead, women had to actively organize and campaign to show they were capable of voting and participating in political life.

197. (C) The press reflected and shaped the views of a section of the public, creating a new political force.
The relationship between the press and public opinion in colonial India was dynamic and mutually reinforcing. The growth of newspapers and journals provided a platform where different viewpoints on social and political issues could be expressed. In doing so, the press not only reflected the existing concerns of the educated classes but also actively shaped their views, helping to build a unified and critical public opinion. This process created a new and powerful political force.

198. (B) Water-logging and increased salinity in the soil.
While the large-scale canal projects built by the British increased irrigation in some areas, they often had serious negative environmental impacts. Poorly designed drainage systems frequently led to water-logging, where the soil became saturated. Furthermore, in many semi-arid regions, the constant application of canal water brought salts to the surface through capillary action, significantly increasing soil salinity. These ecological problems eventually reduced agricultural productivity in some of the very areas that the irrigation systems targeted.

199. (D) Their transformation from independent producers to dependent wage laborers.
The traditional artisans of India saw a fundamental change in their economic status under colonial rule. Unable to sustain their independent workshops due to the loss of traditional markets and competition from cheap British machine-made goods, many were forced to abandon their independence. Some moved into the agricultural sector as landless laborers, while others were forced to work for merchants as unskilled wage laborers. This shift marked a significant loss of social and economic autonomy.

200. (B) P, Q, R, and S only.
The Indian Renaissance was characterized by a set of modern and progressive ideas. Reformers emphasized monotheism and critiqued polytheism and idol worship. They were also deeply concerned with social issues, leading

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139. (D) The vernacular and English press.
The growth of public opinion in colonial India was inseparable from the expansion of the press. Newspapers and journals in both English and local languages provided a space where government policies could be publicly analyzed and debated. By reporting on news from different parts of the country and sharing political and social ideas, the press helped create a common platform. This facilitated the development of a shared sense of national purpose.

140. (D) P, Q, R, S, and T
The impoverishment of the Indian peasantry was the cumulative result of various colonial economic factors. The new land revenue systems imposed high tax demands. The commercialization of agriculture and the development of railways made farmers vulnerable to global price fluctuations. De-industrialization forced artisans into the agricultural sector. Finally, the constant economic drain reduced resources available for investment in agriculture, leading to chronic poverty and frequent famines during British rule.

141. (C) Company Painting (Patna Kalam)
Company Painting, also known as Patna Kalam, was a unique style of art that emerged as a result of patronage provided by British East India Company officials. This school of painting combined traditional Indian techniques with a new focus on realistic subjects, such as local landscapes, occupations, and botanical studies. It was a bridge between traditional miniatures and Western academic art, reflecting the changing tastes and new social environment.

142. (D) Britain and other countries of the British Empire
Colonial rule brought about a dramatic shift in India's trading partners. India's traditional trade routes and links with regions like East Asia and the Middle East were increasingly replaced by a focus on Great Britain. British commercial policies, including the control of shipping and preferential tariffs, ensured that India became primarily a supplier of raw materials for British industry and a captive market for finished industrial goods.

143. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
British colonial rule introduced several transformative policies. New land rights established the concept of land as private property. Factory legislation was the first attempt to regulate working conditions, particularly for child labor. The civilizing mission was the ideological justification for the new education policy, which sought to bring Western knowledge to India. Finally, monetary policy focused on creating a uniform currency system and exchange rate that served empire interests.

144. (B) The combination of high revenue demands, crop failures, and the peasants' need for credit for consumption and production.
Rural indebtedness was caused by a cycle of financial pressure that small peasants could not escape. The heavy and inflexible land revenue demanded by the government had to be paid in cash, regardless of harvest. When crops failed due to lack of rain, peasants were forced to borrow from local moneylenders to pay taxes. The high interest rates and exploitative terms of these loans led to growing debt.

145. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
In the later phase of colonial rule, several major modern industries, particularly cotton textiles and iron and steel, were established and owned by Indian entrepreneurs. However, this growth was not due to the encouragement of the British government. On the contrary, colonial industrial policy was often biased toward British manufacturers and actively discouraged heavy industries. Any progress made by Indian capital occurred despite the restrictive and unfavorable colonial policies.

146. (A) Labour and trade union movement
The formation of the All-India Trade Union Congress in 1920 was a major milestone in the history of the Indian labor movement. It was the first attempt to organize the diverse workforce across different industries into a single national-level organization. The AITUC provided a platform for articulating the common demands of workers, such as better wages, and helped link industrial workforce struggles with the broader national movement for independence.

147. (C) 2, 1, 4, 3

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as forming associations—to challenge their traditional exclusion from education and jobs. This combination of following old rules while using new ones to change their position made the process dynamic.

208. (B) Project an image of a reformed and 'modern' nation worthy of self-rule.
Indian nationalists used the debate over women's status as a key part of their political argument. By advocating for female education and the removal of social evils, they sought to project an image of India as a nation undergoing modernization. This was intended to show that Indians were socially advanced and therefore capable of self-government. The new Indian woman became a symbol of a revitalized nation that was worthy of political independence from colonial authority.

209. (B) The private salon (mehfil) to the public concert hall.
One of the most significant changes in the performing arts was the shift in the setting where music was performed. Before the colonial period, classical music was typically patronage-based and performed in private salons. As the power of these traditional elites declined and the urban middle class grew, music moved into the public sphere. Ticketed concerts in public halls became common, leading to a change in the relationship between artist and audience and the professionalization of music.

210. (A) The high revenue demand of the state forced peasants to grow cash crops to earn money.
The primary driver for the commercialization of agriculture was the colonial state's demand for land revenue in cash. Peasants who were traditionally focused on subsistence farming were suddenly forced to earn money to pay their taxes. Since cash crops like cotton and opium were in high demand for export and fetched higher prices, farmers were increasingly compelled to grow them instead of food crops. This shift often increased the peasants' vulnerability to international market price fluctuations.

211. (C) It was a uniform process that happened at the same time across all of India.
The decline of traditional industries was not a uniform process that happened everywhere at once. It affected different regions and different crafts at different times and in varying degrees. For instance, the textile centers of Bengal were hit very early and very hard by British competition. Other crafts in more remote or less integrated areas survived for much longer. The impact was also influenced by the strength of local patronage and specific provincial economic policies.

212. (D) Granted legal recognition and specific immunities to registered trade unions.
The Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 was a major milestone for the labor movement because it provided a formal legal framework for worker organizations. For the first time, registered trade unions were granted legal recognition, which allowed them to negotiate with employers. Crucially, the act provided union leaders with immunity from certain civil and criminal liabilities during the course of legitimate trade union activities. This legal protection was essential for the future growth of unions.

213. (C) To serve as the primary channel for the 'Economic Drain'.
From the perspective of the colonial state, the railway system was designed as a tool for economic exploitation. It linked the interiors of India to major ports, allowing for the rapid transport of raw materials to be exported to Britain. At the same time, it facilitated the distribution of British manufactured goods into the Indian market. By easing this extractive trade and ensuring high interest payments to British investors, the railways were a key mechanism for the drain.

214. (B) Unplanned and chaotic in the areas inhabited by Indians.
Colonial urbanization was characterized by a sharp divide in how cities were developed. While the British designed well-planned, sanitary areas for themselves, the growth of the native Indian parts of the city was largely ignored by the colonial administration. This led to a chaotic urban environment where the Indian population lived in extremely congested conditions without proper drainage or housing regulations. The result was a stark contrast between orderly European quarters and neglected Indian localities.

215. (D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

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The colonial government's handling of famines and epidemics was far from being a purely benevolent or welfare-oriented project. In reality, the state's response was frequently inadequate and hampered by its own financial priorities. Relief measures were often designed to be as minimal as possible to avoid excessive spending. The primary aim was usually to protect the health of the military and maintain enough social stability to ensure trade and administration could continue for British interests.

216. (A) Acting as a 'window to the West', providing access to modern scientific and political thought.
The introduction of the English language in India served as a critical intellectual bridge. For the new educated elite, it acted as a window to the West, providing direct access to modern European thought in science and politics. This exposure introduced them to powerful ideas such as democracy and rationalism, which they then used to analyze and reform their own society. English thus became a medium for the modernization of thought and articulating national aspirations.

217. (C) Critical inquiry and social consciousness.
The term Renaissance is applied to this period because it represents a rebirth of the spirit of critical thinking and intellectual awakening. After a period of perceived stagnation, nineteenth-century Indian thinkers began to question traditional social and religious practices that were harmful. This new spirit of inquiry led to a profound increase in social consciousness and a widespread movement for reform. It marked the start of a period where the past was critically evaluated with reason.

218. (C) A is true but R is false.
While the colonial government did pass significant laws regarding women's rights, it is incorrect to say that these were purely the result of British humanitarian initiative. In almost every case, such as the abolition of sati, the legislation was preceded by years of intense campaigning and pressure from Indian social reformers. People like Raja Ram Mohan Roy provided the moral arguments for these changes, forcing the colonial state to act on issues it otherwise avoided.

219. (D) Creating a new, standardized prose style suitable for journalism and essays.
The growth of the printing press and journalism fundamentally changed the nature of Indian languages. To be effective, newspapers needed a clear and standardized way of writing that could be understood by a broad audience. This led to the development of modern prose, which moved away from the complex and stylized language of traditional poetry. This new prose style became suitable for writing about contemporary topics, from politics to science, thereby modernizing the regional languages.

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220. (A) P, Q, R, and S only
Colonial town planning was characterized by several distinctive features. It created rigid racial segregation by developing separate Civil Lines for Europeans. It introduced European architectural styles like Gothic, often in a hybrid Indo-Saracenic form. In the European quarters, there was an emphasis on wide roads and low-density housing like bungalows. Crucially, major public buildings were designed to serve as statements of imperial power and authority. However, integrated housing was not a feature of these cities.

221. (C) A major cause of India's poverty and economic backwardness.
The economic drain theory, as formulated by early Indian nationalists, was a powerful critique of British rule. It argued that the continuous outflow of wealth from India to Great Britain was the fundamental reason for the country's lack of economic progress. This unilateral transfer of resources prevented the accumulation of capital in India and its investment in productive sectors. Therefore, the drain was seen as the primary cause of chronic poverty and the underdevelopment of the economy.

222. (D) The political, military, and economic consolidation of the British Empire in India.
The development of the post and telegraph system in India was a strategic project of the colonial state. These communication technologies were essential for the consolidation of British rule over a vast territory. They allowed for the rapid transmission of administrative orders and coordination of military movements to maintain security. By providing the state with the ability

to exercise long-distance control, these systems were indispensable for the political and economic integration of the Indian subcontinent.

223. (A) The creation of a highly unequal and segregated urban environment.
The most defining feature of colonial urbanization was the extreme inequality built into the physical structure of the cities. The British developed a dual urban environment, with well-planned, low-density quarters for the European population and overcrowded, neglected areas for the native Indians. This racial and social segregation meant that the benefits of modern urban services were highly concentrated, leaving the majority of the population to live in increasingly deteriorating and unhealthy living conditions.

224. (B) Lower castes adopt the rituals, customs, and way of life of upper castes to claim a higher status.
Sanskritization is a social process where lower caste groups attempt to improve their position in the traditional hierarchy by adopting the lifestyle and customs of higher castes. During the colonial period, this often involved changing dietary habits and adopting more rigid rituals. This process was a form of cultural imitation aimed at gaining social respectability within the traditional system, often occurring alongside modern political mobilization to claim more rights and opportunities from the state.

225. (B) The need for mapping, resource extraction, and strategic information.
The establishment of modern scientific organizations by the British was driven by practical and strategic goals rather than pure research. Institutions like the Survey of India were created to map the territory for military and administrative purposes. Similarly, the Geological and Botanical Surveys were intended to identify and exploit natural resources for the benefit of British industry. These institutions provided the colonial state with the data necessary to effectively manage and maintain control over the subcontinent.

226. (C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Major Indian social reformers were each associated with specific struggles. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the key figure in the successful campaign against Sati. Mahatma Gandhi was a prominent leader in the fight against untouchability and for the rights of lower castes. Harbilas Sarda is remembered for his legislation against child marriage. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was the tireless advocate for the legal right of widows to remarry, successfully pushing for the appropriate legislation.

227. (C) Educated and modern, yet devoted to Indian domestic values.
The nationalist movement sought to create a specific ideal for Indian women that would represent a modern yet culturally authentic nation. This new woman was encouraged to be educated and aware of contemporary issues, fitting the image of a progressive country. However, she was also expected to remain deeply rooted in traditional domestic virtues and spiritual values, maintaining the purity of the home. This ideal allowed nationalists to advocate for reform without appearing to adopt a Westernized lifestyle.

228. (D) Pasture lands and forests
As the colonial government sought to increase land revenue, it encouraged the expansion of cultivation into areas that were previously not farmed. This growth of agricultural land frequently occurred at the direct expense of forests and traditional grazing or pasture lands. This process had a significant negative impact on pastoralist and tribal communities, who lost their traditional livelihoods. It also led to ecological changes as the state prioritized settled, revenue-paying agriculture over other forms of land use.

229. (C) The unilateral transfer of wealth from India to Britain.
The concept of the economic drain captures the systematic and unrequited flow of India's resources to Great Britain. This included the direct transfer of funds for home charges, such as the expenses of the India Office in London and the pensions of British officials. It also encompassed the interest paid on India's public debt and the large profits exported by British commercial companies. The defining feature was that India received no equivalent economic return for this loss.

230. (B) Calcutta
The jute industry in colonial India was almost entirely concentrated in the province of Bengal,

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their ideas on topics such as female education and legal reform. Through their writings and public speeches, they shaped the national conversation on these issues, linking social reform with the broader goal of creating a modern nation, making it a central theme.

245. (C) The rise of a public sphere where political and social issues could be debated.
The printing press was a transformative technology that facilitated the emergence of a modern public sphere in India. By making the written word more accessible and affordable, it allowed for the creation of a diverse range of publications where social and political matters could be openly discussed. This provided a platform for both the government and its critics to articulate their views, fostering an environment of debate. The press was essential for building national consciousness.

246. (D) The road network was primarily developed to supplement the railways, connecting them to hinterlands and strategic locations.
The development of road transport under the British was not intended to create a comprehensive network for the benefit of all villages. Instead, road building was a highly selective process aimed at meeting specific colonial needs. The main priority was to develop roads that could supplement the railway network by connecting major agricultural and commercial regions to stations. Roads were also strategically built to ensure the efficient movement of troops to sensitive areas, prioritizing military interests.

247. (D) The underlying philosophical and symbolic meanings behind practices like idol worship.
Much of the criticism of Indian religions by Western observers and missionaries was superficial and biased. They often focused on external practices—such as the use of numerous deities in worship—and dismissed them as being merely superstitious or polytheistic. In doing so, they failed to appreciate the sophisticated philosophical traditions and the deep symbolic meanings that underpinned these practices within various Indian faiths. This lack of understanding often led to a one-sided and judgmental critique.

248. (A) The colonial state and its personnel.
The introduction of modern science, technology, and medicine in India was a strategic project of the British Raj. The primary goal was to provide the government with the tools it needed to effectively manage its empire. Scientific surveys were conducted to identify resources, engineering was used for building infrastructure like railways for trade, and medical programs were focused on maintaining the health of the British army. While some benefits reached the public, the core objective was colonial.

249. (C) Journalistic activity created a platform for the formation and expression of a nationalist public opinion.
In colonial India, journalism was the primary medium through which a sense of national purpose was built. Newspapers and journals provided a common space where the diverse problems of the country could be analyzed from a non-governmental perspective. By critiquing colonial economic policies and discussing political rights, the press helped the educated elite move beyond regional concerns and form a unified, nationalist public opinion. This role of the press as a platform was essential for independence.

250. (A) The creation of the modern, urban, proscenium stage.
The reorientation of the performing arts was fundamentally linked to the development of modern urban culture in India. One of the most significant changes was the introduction of the Western-style proscenium stage in theaters in cities like Calcutta and Bombay. This new physical setting changed how plays were written and watched, moving away from traditional open-air performances. The use of this modern stage led to professional theater scenes that addressed contemporary themes, marking the shift.

251. (B) A shift from exporting finished goods to supplying raw materials.
During the colonial period, the fundamental nature of Indian trade underwent a massive transformation. India transitioned from being a globally renowned exporter of finished manufactured products, particularly fine textiles, to primarily serving as a supplier of raw materials. This shift was designed to feed British industries

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women's political status in India. The act did not directly grant women the right to vote, but it did give the newly established provincial legislatures the authority to decide whether to enfranchise women in their respective provinces. Following this, many provinces gradually granted a limited right to vote to women who met specific property and educational criteria. This was an official political acknowledgment.

238. (D) Novels and short stories with social and nationalist themes.
The modernization of Indian literature is best seen in the works of writers like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Premchand, who moved away from traditional poetic forms. They used the novel and the short story to engage with the actual social and political realities of their time. Their writings featured realistic portrayals of the struggles of the peasantry, critiques of social injustices, and powerful expressions of nationalist sentiment. By writing in vernacular languages, they made literature a vital part of the awakening.

239. (A) Stagnated or declined in the early 19th century before picking up later.
The process of de-urbanisation refers to a specific period in the nineteenth century when the percentage of the Indian population living in towns either remained constant or actually decreased. This was caused by the ruin of traditional administrative and craft centers under British competition and the displacement of artisans. While some new colonial port cities were growing, their growth was initially not enough to offset the decline of older urban centers. Urban population only began rising significantly later.

240. (B) The dominance of large, British-controlled banks that primarily served European commercial interests.
The modern banking system in colonial India was designed to facilitate British trade and serve the needs of the imperial government. The sector was dominated by large, British-controlled institutions, such as the Presidency Banks. These banks primarily provided credit to European merchants and industrial firms engaged in export-import trade. The financial needs of the vast majority of Indians—including small traders and peasants—remained largely ignored by these modern banks, forcing them to continue relying on traditional systems.

241. (B) The state has a duty to provide relief during famines.
The most important achievement of the Famine Codes was the official recognition of the state's responsibility for the welfare of its subjects during a food crisis. This was a significant shift from the earlier British policy of laissez-faire, which had often resulted in government inaction while millions starved. The codes established that the government had a formal duty to intervene and provide employment through relief works. This principle laid the foundation for an organized famine policy.

242. (A) The oppression by moneylenders, zamindars, and the colonial police.
The Santhal Rebellion was a powerful uprising of the Santhal people against the multiple layers of exploitation they faced. As their traditional way of life was disrupted by the introduction of new land and revenue systems, they were increasingly victimized by local zamindars and moneylenders who used fraudulent practices to seize their land. When the Santhals sought justice, they found that the colonial police and courts consistently favored their oppressors. Consequently, the rebellion targeted these immediate sources.

243. (C) A return to the pristine purity of the Vedas and a rejection of later accretions like idol worship.
The Arya Samaj was a reform movement that sought to revitalize Hinduism by returning to what it considered its original and pure form. It rejected the many social and religious practices that had developed over centuries—such as idol worship and the rigid caste system—as later corruptions of the faith. The movement's central message was Go back to the Vedas, advocating for a more rational religion and social reforms based on the principles of the ancient scriptures.

244. (D) The writings and speeches of nationalist leaders and reformers in journals and public forums.
The debate over the status and rights of women in India was primarily carried out in the public sphere by intellectual and political leaders. Nationalist figures used the burgeoning press—including newspapers and journals—to share

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260. (A) It increased the risk of peasants losing their land due to debt.
Redefining land as a saleable commodity fundamentally changed the security of the peasantry. This legal shift allowed land to be transferred to satisfy debts, significantly increasing the risk of cultivators being dispossessed by moneylenders or the state. The commodification of land broke traditional ties to the soil and made the peasantry more vulnerable to the pressures of the colonial market.

261. (D) the competition from cheap, machine-made British goods.
The erosion of traditional Indian industries, particularly the textile sector, resulted from the influx of mass-produced, machine-made goods from Britain. Colonial trade policies facilitated the entry of these cheaper alternatives, which undermined the competitive position of local handloom products. This economic pressure led to the widespread collapse of artisan-based production and the overall de-industrialization of the Indian economy.

262. (B) They were forced to transition into agriculture as labourers.
As traditional manufacturing sectors declined under colonial rule, many skilled artisans lost their primary source of income. With limited opportunities in the new industrial landscape, these displaced workers were forced to move back to rural areas. This shift led to overcrowding in the agricultural sector, as former weavers and craftsmen sought survival as manual labourers on increasingly strained land.

263. (C) a one-way transfer of Indian resources to Britain without equivalent return.
The concept of economic drain describes the systemic and unilateral transfer of India's wealth and capital to Britain. Through various channels such as official salaries, home charges, and profits from private trade, resources were extracted without any corresponding material benefit returning to the country. This process severely hindered capital formation in India, contributing to long-term economic stagnation and widespread poverty.

264. (D) the decline of traditional manufacturing towns.
De-urbanisation in the early colonial period was directly linked to the decay of traditional manufacturing hubs. As the indigenous textile and craft industries collapsed due to competition from British imports, the towns that relied on these industries lost their economic purpose. This caused a migration of people back to rural areas, reversing the growth patterns of many historic urban centres.

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265. (A) They caused inflation and shortages due to expenditure on the British war effort.
The global conflicts of the twentieth century placed immense financial strain on the Indian economy. Indian revenues were heavily diverted to fund the British military efforts, leading to massive public expenditure. This resulted in significant inflationary pressures and acute shortages of essential goods for the local population. These conditions worsened the existing economic hardships faced by ordinary citizens across the country.

266. (B) It was selective and prevented competition with British industries.
British industrial policy in India was strategically selective, ensuring that any modern development did not threaten the interests of industries in Britain. The colonial administration encouraged only those sectors that complemented the imperial economy. This approach prevented the growth of a diverse and competitive industrial base in India, keeping the colony as a dependent supplier and a restricted manufacturing environment.

267. (B) pressure from British manufacturers fearing competition.
The introduction of factory laws by the colonial government was largely driven by the concerns of British manufacturers. They feared that Indian textile mills would gain an unfair competitive advantage by utilizing extremely cheap labour under unregulated conditions. Therefore, these regulations were partly designed to level the playing field for British interests rather than being purely focused on welfare.

268. (A) A lopsided structure with a deficiency in capital goods industries.
The industrial development that occurred during the colonial era was uneven and fundamentally

with resources like cotton, indigo, and jute while creating a captive market.

252. (A) supporting the requirements of the British industrial economy.
The restructuring of Indian trade patterns was a strategic move by the colonial administration to prioritize the needs of the British industrial economy. By marginalizing traditional commercial links and reorienting trade towards Britain, the colonial state ensured a steady flow of resources for its own factories. This deliberate policy transformed India into a subordinate economic partner within the empire.

253. (C) It made the Indian rural economy susceptible to global market volatility.
Forced commercialization of agriculture integrated the Indian agrarian sector into the global capitalist market by compelling peasants to grow cash crops. This shift away from subsistence farming disconnected local production from immediate consumption needs. Consequently, the rural economy became extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in international prices, leading to widespread socio-economic distress among the peasantry who lacked traditional safety nets.

254. (D) the deliberate marginalization of India's pre-existing trade networks.
The colonial administration actively reoriented India's trade routes to serve imperial interests, specifically targeting the marginalization of pre-existing commercial networks. This shift prioritized Britain and its empire as the primary trading partners, effectively dismantling India's traditional links with other regions. Such restructuring was essential for maintaining British control over the volume and direction of Indian exports and manufactured imports.

255. (C) an economic sphere compelled to absorb British industrial output.
Describing India as a captive market signifies that the colonial economy was structured to absorb British industrial output without competition. Through various trade policies, the colonial state ensured that Indian consumers were compelled to purchase machine-made goods from Britain. This arrangement effectively turned the subcontinent into a guaranteed source of revenue for British manufacturers, stifling the growth of indigenous industries.

256. (B) To ensure the efficient extraction of state revenue.
Various land revenue systems introduced by the British administration, despite their administrative differences, shared the primary goal of maximizing the extraction of wealth. These settlements were designed to provide a steady and predictable flow of income for the colonial state. By redefining land rights and property titles, the administration prioritized revenue collection over the traditional rights of village communities.

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257. (D) The imposition of high revenue demands by the state.
High revenue demands imposed by the colonial state were the primary catalyst for the growth of rural indebtedness. Peasants often found it impossible to meet these rigid and exorbitant financial obligations from their agricultural income alone. Consequently, they were forced to take loans from moneylenders at high interest rates, leading to a vicious cycle of debt and land loss.

258. (A) The emergence of a substantial landless labour class.
The implementation of new land policies combined with increasing indebtedness led to the systematic dispossession of many cultivators. As peasants lost their property titles to moneylenders or through state auctions for unpaid revenue, they were forced into wage labour. This process fundamentally altered the agrarian social structure, resulting in the creation of a vast class of landless labourers.

259. (C) support the cultivation of cash crops for revenue and export.
Development of irrigation and canal infrastructure during the colonial period was strategically focused on specific regions to boost commercial agriculture. These projects aimed to ensure a reliable supply of raw materials for British industries and to increase the state's revenue potential. Instead of prioritizing subsistence farming, the system was designed to facilitate the large-scale production of profitable cash crops.

particularly in the areas surrounding the major port of Calcutta. This concentration was due to the local availability of raw jute and the excellent transport links provided by the river system and the growing railway network. Calcutta, as a major administrative and commercial hub, provided the necessary infrastructure, capital, and global trade connections for the jute industry, which became a regional cornerstone.

231. (D) Making Indian exports more expensive and British imports cheaper.
The colonial government's policy of maintaining the rupee at an artificially high value relative to the British pound had a significant impact on India's trade. By making the pound cheaper in terms of rupees, it lowered the cost of British manufactured goods in the Indian market, giving them a competitive advantage over local products. At the same time, it made Indian agricultural and industrial exports more expensive for foreign buyers abroad, thereby facilitating the economic drain.

232. (A) Its adherence to a rigid laissez-faire doctrine, which hindered effective relief.
The British response to the devastating famine of 1876-78 was widely criticized for its heartless nature. Under the administration of Lord Lytton, the government strictly followed the economic doctrine of laissez-faire, which argued that the state should not interfere in the grain market or provide direct food relief. This led to a refusal to ban grain exports even while millions were starving and resulted in highly inadequate relief measures. This highlighted the consequences of prioritizing theories over human life.

233. (C) Being a struggle of Muslim tenants against Hindu landlords, intertwined with religious and anti-colonial sentiments.
The Moplah Rebellion in the Malabar region was a complex uprising with multiple layers of conflict. It was primarily a struggle by Muslim peasant tenants against the high rents and illegal evictions practiced by their predominantly Hindu landlords. However, the movement also had strong religious and anti-colonial dimensions, as it became part of the broader Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements. This combination of economic grievances and political aspirations made it one of the most powerful and violent peasant revolts.

234. (A) Monotheistic doctrine and egalitarian social message, which critiqued caste.
Christianity challenged traditional Indian society primarily through its core ideological messages. The monotheistic focus of the faith stood in contrast to the complex polytheism of many Indian traditions. More importantly, the missionary emphasis on social equality and the worth of every individual offered a powerful critique of the rigid and hierarchical caste system and the practice of untouchability. This egalitarian message resonated particularly with the marginalized sections of society and forced upper-caste reformers to engage in introspection.

235. (D) Education would filter down from the educated upper classes to the masses.
The British educational policy in the nineteenth century was based on the downward filtration theory. This idea held that since the government did not have the resources to educate the entire population, it should focus on providing modern English education to the upper and middle classes. It was assumed that the knowledge gained by this elite group would naturally filter down to the rest of society through their interactions and eventually spread vernacular education. In practice, this failed.

236. (B) The socio-religious reform movements and the nationalist movement.
The new middle class, created by the colonial administrative and educational systems, became the primary force for change in nineteenth and twentieth-century India. This group possessed the education necessary to question traditional social evils and articulate political demands. They provided the leadership and the most active members for various socio-religious reform associations. More importantly, they were the architects and leaders of the nationalist movement, using their organizational skills to mobilize public opinion against British rule.

237. (C) Government of India Act of 1919, which allowed provincial legislatures to enfranchise women.
The Government of India Act of 1919 represented a significant, albeit limited, advancement for

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incomplete. While some consumer goods industries like textiles and jute emerged, there was a glaring absence of heavy engineering and capital goods production. This lopsided structure meant that India remained technologically dependent on imports for machinery, preventing the establishment of a truly self-sustaining and robust industrial economy.

269. (C) securing better wages and working conditions for labourers.
Initial efforts of the emerging industrial workforce and trade unions were concentrated on immediate economic concerns. These early movements sought to address the harsh realities of the factory system by demanding higher wages and better environments for workers. Their activities primarily revolved around collective bargaining and strikes to improve the daily life and financial security of the growing urban proletariat.

270. (D) became integrated with the nationalist anti-colonial struggle.
Over time, the grievances of the industrial working class became intertwined with the broader political goals of the nationalist movement. Labour unions began to see their struggle against factory owners as part of the larger fight against colonial rule. This integration provided the anti-colonial struggle with a mass base, using strikes and protests to challenge both economic and political authority.

271. (C) facilitate troop movement and the export of raw materials.
The vast railway network established by the British was a strategic infrastructure project intended to serve imperial needs. Its primary functions were to enable the rapid deployment of military forces for administrative control and to transport agricultural raw materials efficiently to ports for export. These objectives prioritized the maintenance of British rule and economic exploitation over the welfare of Indians.

272. (B) the potential overvaluation of the rupee, which was detrimental to Indian exports.
The exchange rate between the Indian rupee and the British pound was a major point of contention between Indian nationalists and the colonial state. Nationalists argued that maintaining an artificially high value for the rupee benefited British interests while making Indian exports more expensive and less competitive. This policy was seen as a mechanism that systematically disadvantaged local producers and merchants.

273. (D) It primarily consisted of British-controlled banks that monopolized foreign trade finance.
The development of the banking sector under colonial rule was heavily skewed in favour of British interests. 'Exchange banks' controlled by British capital dominated the lucrative field of financing foreign trade, leaving little room for indigenous institutions. This monopoly limited the access of Indian merchants to credit and ensured that the financial backbone of international commerce remained under colonial control.

274. (A) the strategic and commercial needs of the British Empire.
Modern communication systems like the post and telegraph were introduced primarily to strengthen the administrative and commercial grip of the British Empire. These tools were essential for the rapid transmission of official orders and for coordinating large-scale trade operations across the subcontinent. While they modernized communication, their fundamental purpose was to facilitate the consolidation of political power and economic exploitation.

275. (C) It was strategically designed to serve imperial control and economic exploitation.
Infrastructure development during the colonial era, including railways, roads, and telegraphs, was fundamentally driven by the needs of the empire. These projects were not intended as humanitarian gifts but as strategic assets to maintain political stability and maximize the extraction of resources. The primary motivation was to integrate the Indian economy more tightly into the global British imperial system.

276. (A) the spatial segregation between European and native residential areas.
Colonial urban planning was characterized by a rigid spatial segregation that separated the European population from the indigenous residents. Well-planned, low-density areas like Civil Lines and Cantonments were reserved for the British, featuring superior infrastructure and

amenities. In stark contrast, the native quarters, often called Black Towns, remained overcrowded and poorly serviced, reflecting the racial and social hierarchies of rule.

277. (D) project the power and permanence of the British Empire.
The grand public architecture of colonial cities was designed to be a visible symbol of British authority and stability. By using monumental styles often blended with local motifs, the administration sought to project an image of permanence and imperial grandeur. These buildings were intended to impress the local population and demonstrate the technological and cultural dominance of the colonial state.

278. (B) overcrowding and poor sanitation in the Indian quarters.
The rapid growth of colonial cities led to severe urban crises, particularly within the densely populated native areas. These quarters suffered from extreme overcrowding, inadequate housing, and a lack of basic sanitation and clean water. Because municipal resources were disproportionately allocated to European enclaves, the health and living conditions of the Indian majority were neglected, leading to frequent social tensions.

279. (C) the well-planned residential areas for the European population.
In colonial town planning, 'Civil Lines' referred to the designated residential zones for British administrative officials and other European residents. These areas were intentionally designed with wide roads, ample open spaces, and modern drainage systems, far removed from the congestion of the native city. They stood as a physical representation of the social and political distance between the rulers and the ruled.

280. (D) biased in its allocation of resources, favouring European areas.
Municipal governance in colonial urban centres was marked by a significant bias in how public funds and services were distributed. Priorities were consistently given to improving infrastructure and public health in the European residential zones. Meanwhile, the Indian quarters were often left with substandard facilities, illustrating how municipal administration functioned as an extension of the broader unequal colonial power structure.

281. (A) They worsened the impact of famines by prioritizing exports and cash crops.
Colonial economic strategies significantly aggravated the severity of famines by prioritizing the production of cash crops for international trade over subsistence food grains. Even during periods of acute local food scarcity, the export of foodstuffs continued to meet external demand. This commercial focus dismantled traditional local food security systems and left the population extremely vulnerable to even minor environmental disruptions.

282. (B) a commitment to free-market or laissez-faire doctrines.
The colonial government's initial response to famine was constrained by its strict adherence to laissez-faire economic theory. This doctrine advocated against state interference in the market, leading to a reluctance to regulate food prices or organize direct grain distribution. Officials believed that market forces would eventually solve shortages, resulting in delayed and often inadequate relief efforts during catastrophic crises.

283. (B) The measures were considered intrusive and culturally insensitive.
Government attempts to control epidemics through sanitation drives and quarantines frequently faced opposition from the Indian public. These interventions were often implemented without regard for local customs or social sensitivities, being perceived as invasive violations of privacy and tradition. The lack of cultural awareness in the colonial state's approach to public health fueled suspicion and widespread popular resistance.

284. (A) establishing public works projects for providing wage-based relief.
The introduction of the 'Famine Code' provided a formal framework for relief that prioritized the creation of public works. Instead of distributing free food, the government required the starving population to perform manual labour in exchange for wages. This approach was designed to prevent total dependency on the state while providing a

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minimal survival mechanism through controlled employment projects.

285. (C) the rise of tribal and peasant movements against the colonial system.
Chronic agrarian suffering caused by recurring famines and perceived government indifference led to significant unrest in the countryside. Peasants and tribal communities, pushed to their limits by economic exploitation and natural disasters, organized various movements to challenge the colonial state. These protests targeted the administration and its local collaborators, such as moneylenders, as the primary causes of their distress.

286. (D) The establishment of educational institutions and medical facilities.
Beyond their primary focus on religious conversion, Christian missions in India played a substantial role in social and humanitarian work. They were pioneers in setting up modern schools and colleges that introduced Western learning to the Indian population. Additionally, they established hospitals and clinics, providing medical care and other charitable services that addressed immediate community needs while promoting their influence.

287. (C) existing social practices, religious beliefs, and customs.
Christian missionaries frequently directed their criticism toward the core components of Indian social and religious life. They attacked practices such as the caste system, idol worship, and traditional rituals, labeling them as backward or irrational. This sustained ideological assault was intended to highlight the perceived superiority of Christian values and to encourage the population to abandon their ancestral traditions.

288. (B) It stimulated internal debate and movements for social reform within Indian society.
While missionaries intended to facilitate religious conversion through their critiques, they inadvertently triggered a process of self-reflection among Indian intellectuals. These challenges forced many Indians to re-examine their own social and religious traditions. This internal scrutiny led to the rise of indigenous reform movements aimed at purifying society and addressing social evils while defending the core of Indian culture.

289. (D) spreading Western knowledge and modern ideas.
Educational institutions founded by missionaries served as vital conduits for the spread of modern Western thought in India. These schools and colleges taught a curriculum that included European science, literature, and political philosophy. By exposing Indian students to these new perspectives, missionary education helped foster a new intellectual class capable of engaging with global ideas and challenging traditional social structures.

290. (A) As a complex mix of cultural challenge and modernizing influence.
The legacy of missionary activity in India is characterized by a dual nature. Their work was often perceived as a form of cultural imperialism that threatened indigenous beliefs and traditions. However, their contributions to education and social reform provided a modernizing impetus that helped shape the emerging intellectual landscape. This complex interaction forced Indian society to navigate both external challenges and internal reforms.

291. (C) To create a class of Indians to serve in the colonial administration.
The colonial administration introduced a new educational system with the pragmatic goal of training a loyal and efficient workforce. They needed a cadre of English-educated Indians to fill lower and middle-level administrative positions within the vast imperial bureaucracy. This policy was designed to produce individuals who were culturally aligned with British values while serving the functional needs of colonial rule.

292. (A) The English language, as favoured by the Anglicists.
Following intense internal debates between those who favoured traditional learning and those who supported Western education, the colonial government chose English as the primary medium of instruction. This decision was intended to streamline the administrative process and create an elite group of Indians fluent in the language of the rulers. English thus became the essential tool for professional advancement.

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(A) Social reform within the framework of British rule.
(B) Representation for Indians in the Viceroy's executive council.
(C) Economic development through British capital.
(D) Complete independence and self-rule, free from foreign control.

28. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Princely State)
P. Junagadh
Q. Hyderabad
R. Kashmir
S. Majority of States
List II: (Method of Integration)
1. Instrument of Accession after initial conflict
2. Police Action ('Operation Polo')
3. Plebiscite/Referendum
4. Instrument of Accession through persuasion
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

29. Left Wing Politics in the context of the Indian national movement advocated for:
(A) Maintaining the status quo of the landed aristocracy.
(B) Closer ties with the British Conservative party.
(C) The rights of peasants and workers, and a socialist vision for India.
(D) The immediate establishment of a Hindu Rashtra.

30. The "Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues" problem in post-independence India highlights the conflict between:
(A) The Centre and State governments over tax revenues.
(B) Different linguistic groups within a state.
(C) The agricultural and service sectors of the economy.
(D) The goals of rapid industrialization and the rights of indigenous communities.

31. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The Muslim League was formed to protect and advance the political rights and interests of the Muslims of India.
Reason (R) : The Indian National Congress, from its inception, was an exclusively Hindu organization that barred Muslim members.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

32. Who among the following is most closely associated with the making of the Indian Constitution as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?
(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) B.R. Ambedkar
(C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(D) Rajendra Prasad

33. Which of the following statements about the 'Assertive Nationalists' is correct?
(A) They were also known as the Moderates.
(B) They advocated for passive resistance and boycott.
(C) They believed in the British sense of justice.
(D) Their influence declined significantly after 1905.

34. Consider the following statements related to post-independence economic policy:
(A) India adopted a model of mixed economy after independence.
(B) The Planning process was central to India's economic policies for several decades.
(C) The first Five-Year Plan focused on heavy industrialization.
(D) The goal of economic self-sufficiency was a key objective of early planning.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d only
(B) a and c only
(C) b, c, and d only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

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CHAPTER 09

Indian Nationalism and Post-Independence India

1. Which of the following is considered a primary economic basis for the rise of Indian nationalism?
(A) The promotion of Indian handicrafts by the British administration.
(B) The systematic drain of wealth from India to Britain.
(C) The establishment of a self-sufficient village economy.
(D) The equal distribution of land among Indian peasants.

2. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Early Nationalists had complete faith in the British sense of justice and fair play.
Statement II : The Assertive Nationalists believed in constitutional agitation as the sole method to achieve their goals.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

3. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding the social basis of early Indian nationalism?
(A) It was primarily led by the Western-educated Indian middle class.
(B) Professionals like lawyers, doctors, and journalists played a significant role.
(C) Traditional landed aristocrats were the main force behind the nationalist movement.
(D) The emergence of a new social consciousness contributed to the nationalist sentiment.

4. The ideology of the Assertive Nationalists within the Indian National Congress primarily emphasized:
(A) The method of 'prayer, petition, and protest'.
(B) Complete and immediate severance of ties with the British Empire.
(C) Collaboration with the British government for administrative reforms.
(D) The principles of self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and direct action.

5. Which one of the following was NOT a part of the programme of the Early Nationalists?
(A) Demanding a larger share for Indians in the civil services.
(B) Advocating for the separation of the judiciary from the executive.
(C) Organising mass-based non-cooperation movements.
(D) Calling for a reduction in military expenditure.

6. The term 'Swadeshi' as a programme during the national movement is best understood as:
(A) A movement focused exclusively on educational reforms.
(B) The promotion of indigenous goods and the boycott of foreign goods.
(C) A political philosophy advocating for dominion status within the empire.
(D) A religious reform movement aimed at reviving ancient traditions.

7. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The ideology of the 'Revolutionaries' during the early 20th century was largely inspired by the methods of the Early Nationalists.
Statement II : The 'Revolutionaries' believed in overthrowing British rule through individual heroic acts and armed struggle.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

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refugees.
(C) The division of assets, army, and civil services.
(D) The peaceful and agreed-upon demarcation of the new border.

44. In the context of the Indian freedom struggle, who were the 'Revolutionaries'?
(A) Politicians who advocated for dominion status through constitutional means.
(B) Nationalists who believed in and practiced overthrowing the British through armed struggle.
(C) Social reformers who focused on abolishing caste and gender discrimination.
(D) Peasants who participated in non-violent tax-resistance campaigns.

45. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : B.R. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in the making of the Indian Constitution.
Reason (R) : He was a staunch opponent of the parliamentary system of democracy and advocated for a monarchy.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

46. The policy of Panchsheel, a cornerstone of India's early foreign policy, did not include which of the following principles?
(A) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
(B) Mutual non-aggression.
(C) Peaceful co-existence.
(D) The formation of a collective military security pact.

47. The integration of the princely state of Kashmir into the Indian Union was formalized through the:
(A) Instrument of Accession signed by the Maharaja.
(B) Defeat of the Maharaja's forces by the Indian Army.
(C) United Nations resolution.
(D) Treaty of Lahore.

48. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Concept/Event)
P. Early Nationalists
Q. Gandhian Movement
R. India after 1991
S. Left Wing Politics
List II: (Associated Idea/Policy)
1. Satyagraha
2. Liberalisation
3. Constitutional Reforms
4. Class Struggle
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

49. What was a primary objective of the Depressed Class Movement led by figures like B.R. Ambedkar?
(A) To merge the identity of the depressed classes with the larger Hindu fold without any specific rights.
(B) To achieve separate electorates and political representation to safeguard their interests.
(C) To advocate for the return of British rule as a protector of their rights.
(D) To promote emigration of the depressed classes to other countries.

50. The "structure of bureaucracy" in India after independence was characterized by:
(A) The continuation of the 'steel frame' of the Indian Civil Service (ICS) with new nomenclature.
(B) A complete overhaul and replacement of all colonial-era officials.
(C) A system where officials were elected directly by the people.
(D) The abolition of a formal hierarchical administrative structure.

51. Consider the following statements about Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA:
(A) Subhas Chandra Bose established the Indian National Army (INA).
(B) The INA was formed with the help of the

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(B) The establishment of a parliamentary democracy with a federal structure.
(C) A constitution that can only be amended by a simple majority.
(D) The provision for a state religion.

18. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The integration of Junagadh was decided by a plebiscite.
Statement II : The ruler of Kashmir immediately acceded to India without any hesitation or conflict.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

19. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Indian Constitution?
(A) Fundamental Rights
(B) Directive Principles of State Policy
(C) A presidential system of government
(D) A bicameral legislature at the Centre

20. The structure of bureaucracy in post-independence India was largely inherited from:
(A) The Mughal administrative system.
(B) The French civil service model.
(C) The ancient Mauryan statecraft.
(D) The colonial British administration.

21. The 'New Education Policy' refers to a significant post-independence initiative aimed at:
(A) Primarily promoting Sanskrit and traditional learning.
(B) Making English the sole medium of instruction at all levels.
(C) Restructuring and modernising the education system.
(D) Abolishing higher education to focus on primary schooling.

22. The concept of 'Panchsheel' in India's foreign policy is primarily associated with:
(A) The formation of a military alliance with the Soviet Union.
(B) The policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence.
(C) The promotion of economic liberalisation globally.
(D) The strategy of containing communist China.

23. The 'Emergency' in the context of Indian politics refers to:
(A) The state of emergency declared during the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
(B) The financial emergency declared after the 1991 economic crisis.
(C) The president's rule imposed in various states.
(D) The period of national emergency imposed from 1975 to 1977.

24. The term 'Linguistic Reorganization of States' refers to the process of:
(A) Redrawing state boundaries primarily on the basis of language.
(B) Creating states based on administrative convenience.
(C) Establishing a single national language for all states.
(D) Dividing states based on their economic performance.

25. Which policy shift is characterized by Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) in the Indian economy?
(A) The focus on a centrally planned, command economy after 1947.
(B) The nationalization of banks in the 1960s.
(C) The economic reforms initiated around 1991.
(D) The Swadeshi movement's economic programme.

26. Which of the following was a key characteristic of women's participation in the national movement?
(A) Women participated in a wide range of activities, from boycotts to revolutionary acts.
(B) Participation was restricted to women from royal families.
(C) Women were only involved in supportive and background roles.
(D) Participation was actively discouraged by all major nationalist leaders.

27. The concept of 'Swaraj', as articulated by the Assertive Nationalists, meant:

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(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

8. A key feature of Gandhian Mass Movements was the emphasis on:
(A) Non-violence and civil disobedience.
(B) Secret societies and armed insurrection.
(C) Seeking intervention from foreign powers.
(D) Elite participation and constitutional dialogue.

9. What was the primary role of Subhas Chandra Bose in the context of the Indian National Army (INA)?
(A) He was one of the founding members of the INA in Japan.
(B) He provided financial support to the INA from India.
(C) He revitalized and led the INA to fight against the British.
(D) He acted as a diplomatic negotiator between the INA and the British.

10. The Depressed Class Movement primarily aimed at:
(A) Achieving social equality and political rights for untouchable castes.
(B) Securing greater representation for all minority communities.
(C) Advocating for the abolition of the princely states.
(D) Promoting a common civil code for all Indians.

11. Identify the INCORRECT pair.
(A) Early Nationalists: Constitutional Agitation
(B) Assertive Nationalists: Passive Resistance
(C) Gandhian Movements: Satyagraha
(D) Revolutionaries: Mass Civil Disobedience

12. Which of the following best describes the role of the middle class in the Indian National Movement?
(A) It remained entirely aloof from all nationalist activities.
(B) It provided leadership and ideological foundation, especially in the early phases.
(C) It exclusively supported revolutionary and violent methods.
(D) It consistently opposed the participation of the masses in the movement.

13. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The economic policies of the British in India created a new economic reality that became a material basis for the growth of nationalism.
Reason (R) : British policies led to the development of modern industries under Indian ownership, which unified the new capitalist class against foreign rule.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

14. The genesis of Pakistan is most directly linked to:
(A) The economic policies of the British government.
(B) The demands of the Depressed Class Movement.
(C) The failure of the Swadeshi movement.
(D) The ideology and politics of the Muslim League.

15. One of the most immediate and significant challenges faced by India after independence in 1947 was:
(A) The rehabilitation of refugees and the violence of Partition.
(B) The linguistic reorganisation of states.
(C) The outbreak of a major famine.
(D) The implementation of a new education policy.

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16. The integration of the princely state of Hyderabad into India was achieved through:
(A) A popular referendum among the people of Hyderabad.
(B) A police action by the Indian government.
(C) A peaceful treaty signed with the Nizam.
(D) The intervention of the United Nations.

17. Which of the following is a key feature of the Indian Constitution as envisioned during its making?
(A) A unitary form of government with all powers vested in the Centre.

35. The term 'Communal Politics' in the context of modern Indian history refers to:
(A) Politics based on the principles of community development and cooperation.
(B) A political system practiced in village communes.
(C) The political mobilisation of people based on their religious identity.
(D) The policy of international diplomatic relations.

36. The 'Planning process' in post-independence India was institutionalized through the establishment of the:
(A) Finance Commission
(B) National Development Council
(C) Reserve Bank of India
(D) Planning Commission

37. What was the principal cause-and-effect relationship that led to the Swadeshi movement?
(A) Cause: Jallianwala Bagh massacre; Effect: Launch of Swadeshi.
(B) Cause: Failure of Cripps Mission; Effect: Launch of Swadeshi.
(C) Cause: Partition of Bengal; Effect: Launch of Swadeshi.
(D) Cause: Formation of Muslim League; Effect: Launch of Swadeshi.

38. The ideology of the Indian National Congress between 1885 and 1905 was dominated by:
(A) Revolutionaries who advocated armed struggle.
(B) Early Nationalists who sought constitutional reforms.
(C) Assertive Nationalists who demanded Swaraj.
(D) Socialists who focused on class struggle.

39. Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. Birth of the Indian National Congress
2. Launch of the first major Gandhian Mass Movement
3. The Swadeshi Movement
4. Formation of the Indian National Army (INA) by Subhas Chandra Bose
(A) 1, 3, 2, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

40. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Centre-State relations have been a persistent theme in Indian politics, dealing with the distribution of powers.
Statement II : The Indian constitution provides for a completely unitary system where states are mere agents of the centre with no autonomy.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

41. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about India's policy of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG)?
(A) It marked a shift away from the earlier license-permit raj.
(B) It aimed at greater integration of the Indian economy with the global economy.
(C) It involved strengthening the public sector and expanding state control over industries.
(D) It included policies like reducing tariffs and encouraging foreign investment.

42. Consider the following statements about the social and economic basis of nationalism in India:
(A) The destruction of India's traditional economy was a major factor.
(B) The development of modern transport and communication unified the country.
(C) The British policy of promoting vernacular education fostered national unity.
(D) The economic prosperity of the peasantry under British rule fueled nationalist sentiment.
(E) A modern Indian intelligentsia emerged, which provided leadership.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and e only
(B) a, c, and d only
(C) b, d, and e only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

43. Which of the following was NOT a challenge associated with the Partition of India?
(A) Communal riots on an unprecedented scale.
(B) The massive cross-border migration of

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293. (D) favouring humanities and law over technical fields.
The curriculum of the colonial education system was criticized for being too narrow and academically restricted. By prioritizing humanities and law, the system aimed to produce clerks and legal professionals rather than scientists or engineers. This lack of emphasis on technical and scientific training hindered India's ability to develop its own industrial and technological capabilities, serving colonial administrative interests instead.

294. (B) constrained by the larger colonial administrative and commercial goals.
Although engineering and medical colleges were established, their growth was limited by the priorities of the British administration. The colonial government was more interested in training professionals who could support the empire's infrastructure and public health needs rather than promoting pure scientific research. Consequently, advancements in these fields were always secondary to the primary objectives of imperial governance and commerce.

295. (C) create a culturally aligned elite and transmit Western ideas.
Promoting English was a strategic choice to build a class of Indians who were "English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect." It served as a vehicle for disseminating Western political and social concepts, thereby creating an elite class that could bridge the gap between the British rulers and the vast Indian population while remaining culturally loyal.

296. (D) the challenges posed by Western modernity and missionary critiques.
The socio-religious reform movements of the nineteenth century were largely triggered by the confrontation with Western ideas and religious scrutiny. Exposure to modern liberal values and the aggressive criticism from Christian missionaries compelled Indian thinkers to re-evaluate their own society. This led to a proactive effort to reform traditional practices while asserting the value of Indian spiritual and cultural heritage.

297. (A) the new colonial economy and education system.
The growth of a new urban middle class was a direct product of the changes introduced by colonial rule. Opportunities in the new bureaucracy, the legal profession, and modern commerce, combined with access to English education, provided the foundations for this class. These professionals and intellectuals became the driving force behind social reform and the rising tide of political consciousness in India.

298. (B) To foster journalistic activity and help shape public opinion.
The introduction of the printing press revolutionized communication in nineteenth-century India by enabling the rapid spread of news and ideas. It facilitated the growth of a vibrant vernacular and English press, which became a platform for debating social issues and critiquing government policies. This technological shift was instrumental in creating an informed and politically aware public that could engage in national discourse.

299. (B) As a matter where the nation's honor was tied to women's status.
Within the nationalist discourse, the status of women was often treated as a reflection of the nation's progress and dignity. Reformers argued that improving the condition of women was essential to prove India's readiness for self-rule and to counter colonial claims of cultural backwardness. This perspective linked the domestic sphere with the political struggle, making women's rights a central theme.

300. (A) demand access to education and claim higher social status.
Caste associations emerged as modern organizations that utilized petitions and collective action to improve the social standing of their members. These groups sought to navigate the colonial system to secure better educational opportunities and government jobs. By adopting contemporary organizational techniques, they challenged traditional hierarchies and attempted to redefine their position within the changing social and political landscape of India.

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Axis powers during World War II.
(C) The INA's primary slogan was 'Inquilab Zindabad'.
(D) The INA comprised of Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and c only
(B) b and d only
(C) a, b, and d only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

52. The ideological difference between Early Nationalists and Assertive Nationalists was primarily over:
(A) The methods to be used to achieve political goals.
(B) The final goal of independence.
(C) The need for social reforms.
(D) The role of religion in politics.

53. One of the major consequences of 'Development' projects like large dams in post-independence India has been:
(A) The uniform economic upliftment of all sections of society.
(B) The complete resolution of the country's energy crisis.
(C) The large-scale displacement of communities, especially tribals.
(D) The strengthening of traditional, self-sufficient village economies.

54. The process of "Linguistic Reorganisation of States" in the 1950s was a response to:
(A) Widespread popular agitations and demands for states based on language.
(B) A British-era policy that the new government wanted to continue.
(C) A United Nations directive on internal boundary demarcation.
(D) The recommendations of the Simon Commission.

55. The political crisis known as "the Emergency" (1975-77) led to:
(A) The strengthening of democratic institutions and individual freedoms.
(B) The peaceful transfer of power to a military government.
(C) The suspension of fundamental rights and curtailment of civil liberties.
(D) The formal division of India into smaller independent nations.

56. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Communal politics uses religious and cultural differences to achieve political ends.
Statement II : The rise of communal politics was a significant factor leading to the partition of India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

57. The economic policies in the initial decades after Indian independence were characterized by:
(A) A laissez-faire, free-market approach with minimal state intervention.
(B) A state-led planning process with a significant role for the public sector.
(C) A focus on agrarian development to the complete exclusion of industry.
(D) Complete dependence on foreign aid and investment for all projects.

58. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the programme of the Early Nationalists (1885-1905)?
(A) To create a consciousness of national identity and to present political demands through constitutional means.
(B) To launch a mass movement for immediate independence.
(C) To organize a secret army for an armed struggle against the British.
(D) To demand separate states for different religious communities.

59. The Muslim League's demand for a separate state of Pakistan was formally articulated through the:
(A) Lucknow Pact
(B) Nehru Report
(C) Lahore Resolution
(D) Poona Pact

60. Arrange the following post-independence events in chronological order:
1. Linguistic Reorganisation of States

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2. Proclamation of National Emergency
3. Initiation of LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) reforms
4. Integration of Hyderabad

(A) 4, 1, 2, 3
(B) 1, 4, 2, 3
(C) 4, 2, 1, 3
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

61. Identify the INCORRECT statement regarding the making of the Indian Constitution.
(A) The Constituent Assembly was responsible for drafting the constitution.
(B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.
(C) The constitution was adopted on 26th January 1950.
(D) The constitution provides for a federal structure with a strong central government.

62. The concept of 'Swaraj' in the Gandhian framework implied:
(A) Political independence achieved through constitutional negotiation with British officials.
(B) Individual, social, and economic self-rule extending from the person to the nation.
(C) Establishment of a monarchical system under the leadership of a traditional Indian king.
(D) Administrative division of the subcontinent into various independent princely states.

63. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The linguistic reorganisation of states was a major step in the post-independence consolidation of India.
Reason (R) : It was believed that linguistic states would undermine national unity and lead to the balkanization of the country.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

64. The primary challenge in the integration of Junagadh was that:
(A) The state was geographically landlocked within Pakistan's territory.
(B) The ruler was a Hindu who wanted to join India against the wishes of his Muslim-majority population.
(C) The state declared itself a sovereign international entity recognized by the UN.
(D) The state had a Hindu-majority population but a Muslim ruler who wished to accede to Pakistan.

65. Consider the following statements about the role of women in the national movement:
(A) Women's participation was largely confined to the upper classes of society.
(B) They actively participated in processions, picketing of shops, and revolutionary activities.
(C) Mahatma Gandhi's call for civil disobedience saw a massive increase in women's participation.
(D) After participation, women immediately achieved equal social and political status in all spheres.
(E) Their roles challenged traditional patriarchal norms.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and c only
(B) b, c, and e only
(C) a, d, and e only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

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66. What does 'Privatisation' as part of the LPG reforms signify?
(A) The nationalisation of private companies.
(B) The transfer of ownership of state-owned enterprises to the private sector.
(C) The increased control of the government over the private sector.
(D) The complete ban on foreign private companies.

67. Which of the following does NOT represent the ideology of the Revolutionaries in the Indian freedom struggle?
(A) Belief in the efficacy of individual assassination of unpopular British officials.
(B) Drawing inspiration from nationalist movements in Ireland and Russia.
(C) The aim of instilling fear in the hearts of the rulers.

(D) The objective of creating a mass-based non-violent movement.

68. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Leader/Entity)
P. Early Nationalists
Q. (B)R. Ambedkar
R. Muslim League
S. Subhas Chandra Bose
List II: (Primary Demand/Association)
1. Separate Electorates for Depressed Classes
2. Formation of Pakistan
3. Indian National Army (INA)
4. Expansion of Legislative Councils
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

69. The term 'Centre-State Relations' in the Indian political context primarily pertains to the distribution of which powers?
(A) Judicial, Diplomatic, and Military
(B) Legislative, Administrative, and Financial
(C) Religious, Cultural, and Social
(D) Executive, Monarchical, and Colonial

70. The immediate cause for the launch of the Swadeshi and Boycott movement was:
(A) The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
(B) The Partition of Bengal in 1905
(C) The arrest of Mahatma Gandhi
(D) The failure of the Round Table Conferences

71. Which one of the following issues was a central concern for Left Wing Politics during the freedom struggle?
(A) The preservation of the rights of princely rulers.
(B) The advocacy for imperialist policies.
(C) The organisation of peasants and workers for their rights.
(D) The promotion of foreign private investment.

72. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Indian Constitution adopted the principle of universal adult franchise.
Statement II : The making of the Indian Constitution involved extensive debates and discussions in the Constituent Assembly.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

73. The 'economic basis of nationalism' was articulated by early nationalist leaders who:
(A) Praised the economic benefits of British rule.
(B) Propounded the 'drain theory' to explain the exploitation of India.
(C) Demanded the collectivization of agriculture.
(D) Advocated for joining the British Commonwealth for economic gains.

74. The birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 is often seen as:
(A) An attempt to launch an immediate armed rebellion.
(B) A spontaneous uprising of the peasant class.
(C) The culmination of a process of political awakening and formation of regional associations.
(D) A direct result of the 1857 revolt.

75. Consider the following policies of post-independence India:
(A) The establishment of the Planning Commission to formulate Five-Year Plans.
(B) A focus on a 'mixed economy' model.
(C) Nationalisation of major banks.
(D) The introduction of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) reforms in 1991.
Which of the above statements are correctly associated with the economic policies and planning process?
(A) a and b only
(B) c and d only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

76. The 'Emergency' declared in India specifically refers to the period when:
(A) The constitution was suspended and a new one was written.
(B) Fundamental rights were curtailed and

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147. The economic planning process in India after 1947 was guided by the objective of:
(A) Promoting a laissez-faire economy.
(B) Achieving rapid industrialization and self-reliance through a mixed economy model.
(C) Dismantling all public sector enterprises.
(D) Prioritizing imports over domestic production.

148. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The role of the middle class was crucial in the rise of Indian nationalism.
Reason (R) : This class, educated in the modern western system, was the first to analyze the exploitative nature of British rule and provide leadership to the movement.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

149. The 'New Education Policy' as a post-independence reform aimed to address challenges such as:
(A) Illiteracy, regional disparity, and the need for scientific and technical manpower.
(B) The dominance of traditional gurukuls.
(C) The lack of religious instruction in schools.
(D) The over-emphasis on sports and physical education.

150. What was the most significant impact of women's participation in the national movement?
(A) It weakened the movement by making it less aggressive.
(B) It helped break down social barriers and paved the way for their empowerment.
(C) It led to the immediate end of all patriarchal practices in India.
(D) It had no discernible impact on the course of the freedom struggle.

151. Which of the following was NOT an ideology of the Indian National Congress between 1885-1920?
(A) Seeking constitutional and administrative reforms.
(B) Demanding complete independence from the very beginning.
(C) Promoting national unity.
(D) Arousing political consciousness among the people.

152. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Depressed Class Movement aimed to challenge the hierarchical structure of the caste system.
Statement II : The movement sought political safeguards and representation for the so-called 'untouchable' communities.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

153. The primary cause for the launching of Gandhian mass movements was:
(A) The desire to establish a Hindu state.
(B) The goal of achieving Swaraj through non-violent means.
(C) The intention to support British war efforts.
(D) The objective of creating class conflict in society.

154. The process "Towards Independence and Partition" was accelerated after World War II due to:
(A) The strengthening of the British Empire's resources.
(B) The weakening of the British imperial power and the intensification of the freedom struggle.
(C) The complete suppression of the Indian National Congress.
(D) A UN mandate ordering Britain to grant independence.

155. Which of the following is a CORRECT statement regarding the integration of princely states?
(A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in the process.
(B) All states joined the Indian Union without any problem.
(C) The states of Kashmir, Hyderabad, and Junagadh joined Pakistan.
(D) The process was completed before August 15, 1947.

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(C) It demonstrated a growing political consciousness and challenged traditional roles.
(D) It was opposed by all major male nationalist leaders.

86. The making of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly reflects a commitment to:
(A) A hereditary system of rule.
(B) A democratic, secular, and republican polity.
(C) The supremacy of religion in state affairs.
(D) A unitary government with no rights for states.

87. Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the ideology of Early Nationalists?
(A) They aimed to overthrow the British government through a violent revolution.
(B) They had profound faith in the British Parliament and sense of justice.
(C) They boycotted legislative councils and all government institutions.
(D) They mobilised the masses for large-scale civil disobedience.

88. The 'police action' in Hyderabad in 1948, codenamed 'Operation Polo', was necessitated by:
(A) The Nizam's declaration of an independent status for Hyderabad.
(B) The Nizam's decision to join Pakistan against the popular will.
(C) A request from the British government to intervene.
(D) A communist-led peasant insurgency in the state.

89. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Term/Policy)
P. Swadeshi
Q. Panchsheel
R. Liberalisation
S. Depressed Class Movement
List II: (Core Concept)
1. Economic Reforms (1991)
2. Social Justice & Representation
3. Self-Reliance & Boycott
4. Foreign Policy of Peaceful Co-existence
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

90. The "genesis of Pakistan" as a political idea was consolidated by the Muslim League's:
(A) Adoption of the Two-Nation Theory.
(B) Support for the Khilafat Movement.
(C) Participation in the Quit India Movement.
(D) Acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan in its entirety.

91. Consider the following statements regarding the challenges of post-independence India:
(A) The integration of over 500 princely states was a major challenge.
(B) The process of linguistic reorganisation of states was completed without any conflict.
(C) The country faced an immediate food crisis and economic disruption due to Partition.
(D) The framing of a new constitution suitable for a diverse India was a critical task.
(E) There was no problem of refugee rehabilitation.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, c, and d only
(B) b and e only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

92. Left Wing politics in the Indian national movement context is best described as:
(A) A conservative ideology focused on preserving traditional social structures.
(B) A political stream that included communists and socialists focusing on workers' and peasants' issues.
(C) A movement that exclusively supported the British war efforts.
(D) A faction within the Muslim League demanding cultural autonomy.

93. Which of the following was NOT a characteristic of Gandhian Mass Movements?
(A) Emphasis on truth and non-violence.
(B) Large-scale participation of the common people.
(C) Use of methods like civil disobedience and non-cooperation.
(D) Reliance on secret societies and

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129. The main ideological plank of 'Left Wing Politics' in the national movement was:
(A) Feudalism and monarchy.
(B) Capitalism and imperialism.
(C) Socialism and anti-imperialism.
(D) Religious fundamentalism.

130. The declaration of the National Emergency in 1975 is an example of the:
(A) Smooth functioning of Indian federalism.
(B) Dynamics of Indian politics involving the use of constitutional provisions for political ends.
(C) Successful implementation of the Panchsheel policy.
(D) Process of economic liberalization.

131. The challenges of Partition included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The division of the army and other assets.
(B) The outbreak of communal frenzy and violence.
(C) The problem of rehabilitating millions of refugees.
(D) The sudden and peaceful integration of all princely states.

132. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The integration of the princely states into the Indian union was a formidable challenge for the newly independent nation.
Reason (R) : All princely states willingly and immediately signed the Instrument of Accession to join India without any persuasion or political maneuvering.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

133. The 'structure of bureaucracy' that India inherited and largely continued was designed by the British primarily to:
(A) Promote democratic participation at the grassroots level.
(B) Uphold the rule of law and maintain control over the colony.
(C) Encourage local self-governance and autonomy.
(D) Provide social welfare to the Indian masses.

134. B.R. Ambedkar's advocacy for the Depressed Classes primarily centered on ensuring:
(A) Their loyalty to the British government as a protected community.
(B) The establishment of a separate, independent state for them.
(C) Their assimilation into the caste Hindu society without any special safeguards.
(D) Their social and political rights through constitutional means like reservations.

135. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Phase/Movement)
P. Early Nationalism (1885-1905)
Q. Assertive Nationalism (1905-1919)
R. Gandhian Era
S. Revolutionary Movement
List II: (Key Method/Slogan)
1. Passive Resistance
2. Satyagraha & Non-cooperation
3. Individual Heroism & Assassination
4. Constitutional Agitation
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

136. The participation of women in the Indian National Movement, especially during the Gandhian phase:
(A) Was limited to fundraising activities only.
(B) Was a setback for the movement's image.
(C) Brought a new level of mass mobilization and legitimacy to the struggle.
(D) Was actively discouraged by Gandhi himself.

137. The 'Genesis of Pakistan' is inextricably linked with:
(A) The rise of communal politics and the Two-Nation theory of the Muslim League.
(B) The linguistic reorganisation of states.
(C) The economic policies of the first five-year plan.
(D) The foreign policy of Panchsheel.

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and States.
(D) The reservation of the post of Prime Minister for a specific community.

103. Consider the following statements about the ideologies of different groups in the freedom struggle:
(A) Early Nationalists used petitions and prayers.
(B) Assertive Nationalists promoted Swadeshi and Boycott.
(C) Revolutionaries believed in armed struggle.
d. Gandhian strategy was based on non-violent Satyagrah(A)
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and d only
(B) a, b, and c only
(C) b and c only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

104. The Indian National Army (INA), later led by Subhas Chandra Bose, was initially formed by:
(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Mohan Singh
(D) Bhagat Singh

105. The primary tool used by the Muslim League to advance its 'Communal Politics' was:
(A) The promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity through joint sessions with Congress.
(B) The propagation of the "Two-Nation Theory".
(C) The organisation of non-violent protests against economic exploitation.
(D) The demand for a wedding civil code for all Indians.

106. The process of integration of the princely state of Hyderabad involved:
(A) A prolonged military siege lasting several years.
(B) A swift 'police action' to end the rule of the Nizam and the terror of the Razakars.
(C) A referendum where the population voted to join Pakistan.
(D) A direct intervention and takeover by the British army.

107. Arrange the following in chronological sequence:
1. Lahore Resolution of the Muslim League
2. Birth of the Indian National Congress
3. Partition of India
4. Swadeshi Movement
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

108. The main challenge in the "Linguistic Reorganisation of States" was to:
(A) Redraw boundaries without fueling secessionist tendencies and while maintaining national unity.
(B) Ensure that every single dialect gets its own state.
(C) Follow the state boundaries exactly as they were during the British Raj.
(D) Create states based on economic viability rather than language.

109. What does the term 'Displacement' signify in the context of 'Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues'?
(A) The forced removal of people, often tribals, from their lands for large development projects.
(B) The voluntary migration of people to urban centres for better jobs.
(C) The seasonal movement of nomadic tribes.
(D) The transfer of government officials from one state to another.

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110. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The New Education Policy initiatives in post-independence India aimed at universalizing elementary education.
Statement II : These policies completely abandoned the study of science and technology in favour of humanities.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

111. The 'Assertive Nationalists' are also known as:
(A) The Liberals
(B) The Moderates
(C) The Constitutionalists
(D) The Extremists

112. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Event/Policy)
P. Emergency
Q. Integration of Junagadh
R. Panchsheel
S. Planning Process
List II: (Associated Feature)
1. Foreign Policy
2. Five-Year Plans
3. Suspension of Fundamental Rights
4. Plebiscite
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

113. Which of the following best describes the social basis for the rise of nationalism in India?
(A) It was a movement started and sustained entirely by the peasantry.
(B) It was a result of the grievances of the traditional aristocracy and landlords.
(C) It emerged from the new, modern, educated Indian middle class.
(D) It was exclusively a movement of industrial workers in cities.

114. The core ideology of the Early Nationalists (1885-1920) was based on:
(A) Overthrowing the British government through mass agitation and civil disobedience.
(B) Believing in the providential nature of British rule and constitutional reforms.
(C) Achieving 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence through immediate direct action.
(D) Creating a parallel government to bypass the existing British administration.

115. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The Partition of India was accompanied by immense violence and one of the largest human migrations in history.
Reason (R) : The process of partition was meticulously planned and executed peacefully, with joint cooperation from all communities.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

116. The Depressed Class Movement, particularly under B.R. Ambedkar, was a struggle for:
(A) Political independence from the British above all else.
(B) Social dignity, equality, and separate political representation.
(C) The preservation of the caste system as a social order.
(D) The establishment of a new religion.

117. Consider the following statements about the Partition of India:
(A) It was a direct consequence of the rise of communal politics.
(B) The Muslim League championed the demand for a separate nation.
(C) The process of partition was peaceful and orderly.
(D) It resulted in massive displacement and refugee problems.
(E) The Indian National Congress supported the idea of partition from the very beginning.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and d only
(B) a, c, and e only
(C) c, d, and e only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

118. The "Liberalisation" policy initiated in 1991 in India involved:
(A) Increasing government controls and licenses on industries.
(B) Reducing government controls and promoting a market-oriented economy.
(C) Nationalising the banking and insurance sectors.
(D) Banning all imports to protect domestic industry.

119. A key difference between Gandhian Mass Movements and the methods of the Revolutionaries was:
(A) The goal of independence.

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(B) The central role of non-violence in Gandhian strategy.
(C) The participation of Indian people.
(D) The opposition to British rule.

120. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding Centre-State relations in India?
(A) The Constitution distributes legislative, administrative, and financial powers between the Centre and the States.
(B) The Centre has overriding powers in certain matters to preserve national unity.
(C) The States have the power to secede from the Indian Union if they wish.
(D) The subject of Centre-State relations has often been a point of political contention.

121. The role of Subhas Chandra Bose is critically associated with:
(A) Leading the Dandi March.
(B) Chairing the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.
(C) Organising the Indian National Army to fight the British.
(D) Championing the cause of the Early Nationalists.

122. The "economic basis of nationalism" included the criticism of British policies for:
(A) Creating a prosperous Indian industrial class.
(B) Impoverishing India through the drain of wealth and de-industrialization.
(C) Ensuring fair wages for all Indian workers.
(D) Promoting Indian shipping and trade.

123. The birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was a significant event because it:
(A) Immediately launched a war of independence.
(B) Provided the first all-India platform for organized political activity.
(C) Was established by the British to suppress nationalist feelings.
(D) Exclusively admitted members of the aristocracy.

124. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Swadeshi movement emphasized the boycott of British institutions and goods.
Statement II : The ultimate goal of the Swadeshi movement, as interpreted by Assertive Nationalists, was 'Swaraj' or self-rule.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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125. The Indian National Constitution is described as a 'living document' partly because of:
(A) Its provision for amendment to adapt to changing times.
(B) Its unchangeable and rigid nature.
(C) Its brief and ambiguous text.
(D) Its non-enforceability in a court of law.

126. The term 'Swaraj' meant 'self-rule', but its interpretation differed. For Tilak and the Assertive Nationalists, it primarily meant:
(A) Dominion status under the British crown.
(B) A spiritual state of being.
(C) Complete political independence from any foreign rule.
(D) Greater representation in the Indian Civil Service.

127. Which of these was a primary method used by the Early Nationalists?
(A) Armed rebellion
(B) Passing resolutions and submitting petitions
(C) Mass civil disobedience
(D) Boycott of foreign goods

128. Consider the following statements regarding post-independence policies:
(A) The 'New Education Policy' aimed at a major overhaul of the educational system.
(B) The 'Planning process' was abandoned immediately after independence.
(C) Linguistic reorganization was undertaken to redraw state boundaries based on language.
(D) Panchsheel was a doctrine of India's domestic policy.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and c only
(B) b and d only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

press censorship was imposed.
(C) The states were given more power than the Centre.
(D) India engaged in a major war with a neighbouring country.

77. The most significant challenge in the integration of the princely state of Kashmir was:
(A) The invasion by tribal raiders supported by Pakistan.
(B) The demand for integration with China.
(C) A naval blockade by the British.
(D) An internal communist uprising.

78. The Assertive Nationalists' programme of 'Swaraj' differed from the Early Nationalists' demands in that it implied:
(A) Minor administrative reforms.
(B) Complete self-government and freedom from British control.
(C) A permanent place within the British Empire.
(D) Separate governance for different religious groups.

79. The role of the middle class was most pivotal during which phase of the Indian National Movement?
(A) The phase of revolutionary terrorism.
(B) The initial phase of the Indian National Congress (1885-1905).
(C) The peasant uprisings of the 18th century.
(D) The INA-led struggle during World War II.

80. What was a major cause for the rise of "Communal Politics" in India in the early 20th century?
(A) The unifying nature of the Gandhian movements.
(B) The British policy of 'divide and rule', including the introduction of separate electorates.
(C) The economic prosperity shared equally among all communities.
(D) The universal adoption of a single national language.

81. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : Gandhian mass movements were unique in their scale and method.
Reason (R) : They were characterized by the central tenets of non-violence (Ahimsa) and truth-force (Satyagraha), which mobilized large sections of the Indian population.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

82. The 'Globalisation' aspect of India's economic reforms since 1991 refers to:
(A) Isolating the Indian economy from world markets.
(B) Integrating the Indian economy with the global economy.
(C) Focusing solely on agricultural exports.
(D) Nationalising all foreign companies operating in India.

83. Which of the following was NOT a challenge of Partition for the newly independent Indian state?
(A) Rehabilitation of millions of refugees.
(B) The integration of French and Portuguese colonial enclaves.
(C) The eruption of widespread communal violence.
(D) The division of administrative apparatus and financial assets.

84. Arrange the following leaders/groups based on the evolution of their predominant ideologies in the freedom struggle:
1. Revolutionaries
2. Early Nationalists
3. Gandhian Mass Movements
4. Assertive Nationalists
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

85. A significant feature of women's participation in the freedom struggle was:
(A) It was non-existent until the Quit India Movement.
(B) It was confined to symbolic roles without any active involvement.

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138. The economic reforms of 1991, encompassing Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization, represented a significant departure from India's earlier policy of:
(A) A state-controlled, centrally planned economy.
(B) A completely free-market, laissez-faire system.
(C) Economic isolationism under the Swadeshi philosophy.
(D) A barter system of trade.

139. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The problem of "tribal issues" in post-independence India is often linked to their displacement due to large-scale development projects.
Statement II : Post-independence development policies have always successfully integrated tribal rights with industrial growth, avoiding any conflict.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

140. Which of the following best describes the character of the Indian National Congress from 1885 to 1905?
(A) A revolutionary body aiming for a violent overthrow of the state.
(B) A mass organisation with a large peasant and worker base.
(C) An elite organisation of educated Indians practicing constitutional agitation.
(D) A social reform body with no political agenda.

141. A state government is planning a large dam that will submerge several tribal villages. This situation directly exemplifies the conflict highlighted in which of the following areas?
(A) Centre-State Relations
(B) Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues
(C) Linguistic Reorganisation of States
(D) New Education Policy

142. Arrange the following events chronologically:
1. Integration of Hyderabad
2. Birth of Indian National Congress
3. Imposition of the Emergency
4. Lahore session of Muslim League demanding Pakistan
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 2, 3, 1

143. The case of Junagadh's integration with India was resolved through:
(A) A military invasion by Pakistan.
(B) A police action by India.
(C) A plebiscite which favoured joining India.
(D) A decision by the British Crown Representative.

144. Identify the INCORRECT pair from the following:
(A) B.R. Ambedkar: Making of the Indian Constitution
(B) Subhas Chandra Bose: Indian National Army
(C) Early Nationalists: Swaraj as birthright
(D) Muslim League: Genesis of Pakistan

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145. Consider the following statements about the features of the Indian Constitution:
(A) It provides for a Parliamentary form of Government.
(B) It establishes a secular state.
(C) It incorporates a chapter on Fundamental Duties.
(D) It has a rigid, unamendable structure.
(E) It establishes a unitary state with no power to provinces.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, d, and e only
(B) a, b, and c only
(C) c, d, and e only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

146. The foreign policy initiative of 'Panchsheel' was a set of principles for peaceful coexistence, first formally enunciated in an agreement between India and:
(A) USA
(B) USSR
(C) China
(D) Pakistan

assassination.

94. The structure of the Indian bureaucracy post-1947 was based on the principle of:
(A) A politically committed civil service.
(B) A permanent, neutral, and professional executive.
(C) Hereditary appointments to administrative posts.
(D) A system where civil servants are elected for short terms.

95. What was the direct political consequence of the proclamation of Emergency in 1975?
(A) The reinforcement of the federal structure of India.
(B) The suspension of elections and the extension of the term of the Lok Sabha.
(C) The immediate secession of several states from the Indian Union.
(D) The strengthening of the powers of the judiciary.

96. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Assertive Nationalists, or Extremists, considered the methods of the Early Nationalists as 'political mendicancy'.
Statement II : The main objective of the Assertive Nationalists was to achieve 'Swaraj' or complete self-rule.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

97. The issue of 'Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues' in post-independence India often revolves around the conflict between:
(A) National development projects and the land and livelihood rights of tribal communities.
(B) The implementation of the New Education Policy and traditional tribal education.
(C) Centre-State relations and the allocation of funds for tribal welfare.
(D) The foreign policy of Panchsheel and tribal foreign relations.

98. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The period from 1885 to 1905 is known as the phase of Early Nationalists in the Indian National Congress.
Reason (R) : During this period, the Congress was dominated by leaders who advocated for the immediate launch of a mass civil disobedience movement to attain freedom.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

99. The final step "Towards Independence and Partition" was the:
(A) Cripps Mission.
(B) Simon Commission Report.
(C) Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act, 1947.
(D) First Round Table Conference.

100. The policy of 'Globalisation' adopted in 1991 aimed to:
(A) Promote the free flow of trade, capital, and technology across borders.
(B) Increase trade barriers to protect domestic industries.
(C) Reduce the integration of the Indian economy with the global economy.
(D) Strengthen the public sector by nationalizing more industries.

101. The 'social basis of nationalism' was broadened significantly during the:
(A) Early Nationalist phase, which was confined to the educated elite.
(B) Period of revolutionary activities, which involved small, secret groups.
(C) Initial years of the Indian National Congress.
(D) Gandhian phase, which saw the mobilisation of peasants, workers, and women.

102. Which of the following is a feature of the Indian Constitution attributed to the vision of its makers, including B.R. Ambedkar?
(A) The guarantee of Fundamental Rights to all citizens.
(B) The establishment of an official state religion.
(C) A system of dual citizenship for the Centre

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156. The term 'bureaucracy' in the Indian context refers to the:
(A) Body of elected political representatives like MPs and MLAs.
(B) System of judiciary and the courts.
(C) Permanent executive, consisting of civil servants, responsible for administration.
(D) Non-governmental organizations working for social welfare.

157. The "Planning process" in India, initiated after independence, involved:
(A) The formulation of Five-Year Plans for economic and social development.
(B) A complete shift to a capitalist, free-market economy.
(C) The division of the country into economic zones controlled by foreign companies.
(D) The abolition of the agricultural sector in favour of services.

158. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Person/Group)
P. Assertive Nationalists
Q. (B)R. Ambedkar
R. Jawaharlal Nehru
S. Subhas Chandra Bose
List II: (Idea/Contribution)
1. Panchsheel
2. Forward Bloc / INA
3. Swadeshi and Swaraj
4. Chairman, Drafting Committee
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

159. The Emergency (1975-77) is considered a critical event in the 'Dynamics of Indian Politics' because it:
(A) Led to the permanent establishment of a one-party rule.
(B) Demonstrated the fragility of democratic institutions under stress.
(C) Resolved the Centre-State relations issue permanently.
(D) Initiated the process of economic globalisation in India.

160. Consider the following statements about different phases of nationalism:
(A) Early Nationalists maintained loyalty to the British Crown while seeking reforms.
(B) Assertive Nationalists primarily promoted the method of passive resistance.
(C) Revolutionaries aimed for complete independence through any necessary means.
(D) Gandhian movements were strictly based on the principle of armed struggle.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and c only
(B) a and d only
(C) b, c, and d only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

161. The demand for Pakistan by the Muslim League was based on the premise that:
(A) Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations that could not coexist in one country.
(B) Economic development would be faster in a separate state.
(C) All Muslims in India wanted to live in a separate country.
(D) The British government had ordered the creation of Pakistan.

162. One of the primary reasons for initiating the "Linguistic Reorganization of States" was:
(A) To fulfill a demand that was part of the nationalist struggle for a more rational and democratic basis for state formation.
(B) To follow the administrative divisions created by the British.
(C) To weaken the unity of the country by promoting regionalism.
(D) To create states based on religious majorities.

163. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The Swadeshi movement marked a significant leap forward in the Indian freedom struggle.
Reason (R) : It moved beyond the earlier methods of prayer and petition and introduced new techniques of mass mobilisation like boycott and passive resistance.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

182. Subhas Chandra Bose's approach to achieving independence was marked by his belief in:
(A) Strict adherence to non-violence under all circumstances.
(B) Seeking the help of foreign powers, including the Axis powers, to fight the British.
(C) The gradualist and constitutional methods of the Early Nationalists.
(D) The effectiveness of parliamentary debate in London.

183. Which of the following statements about the 'Emergency' (1975-77) is INCORRECT?
(A) It was proclaimed on the grounds of 'internal disturbance'.
(B) It led to the suspension of Fundamental Rights.
(C) It strengthened the federal character of the Indian state.
(D) It resulted in widespread arrests of political opponents and press censorship.

184. The 'Planning process' in India was a tool to implement the country's:
(A) Foreign policy
(B) Defence policy
(C) Cultural policy
(D) Economic policies

185. The genesis of Pakistan is most directly attributable to the:
(A) Khilafat movement.
(B) Swadeshi movement.
(C) Communal politics and the two-nation theory of the Muslim League.
(D) Demands of the Depressed Class Movement.

186. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The linguistic reorganization of states was a seamless process completed without any public demand or agitation.
Statement II : The creation of states based on language was seen by some as a threat to national unity, but it ultimately strengthened Indian federalism.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

187. The term 'Swaraj' was first explicitly demanded as the goal of the Congress by the Assertive Nationalists at the:
(A) Calcutta session, 1906
(B) Lahore session, 1929
(C) Surat session, 1907
(D) Bombay session, 1885

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188. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Indian constitution?
(A) A federal system with unitary bias.
(B) An independent judiciary.
(C) Directive Principles of State Policy.
(D) Provision for a state religion.

189. Consider the following about the integration of princely states:
(A) Hyderabad was integrated through a police action.
(B) Kashmir's ruler signed the Instrument of Accession after a tribal invasion.
(C) Junagadh's fate was decided by a plebiscite.
(D) All princely states had to be integrated into either India or Pakistan.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and c only
(B) b and d only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, and d

190. The role of women in the national movement is best characterized as:
(A) Negligible and unimportant.
(B) Confined to their homes, providing moral support.
(C) Active and diverse, ranging from participation in mass movements to revolutionary activities.
(D) A phenomenon that started only after 1942.

191. The 'Globalization' of the Indian economy, part of the LPG reforms, implies:
(A) Greater integration with the world economy through trade and capital flows.
(B) Increased restrictions on foreign trade and investment.
(C) The nationalization of all foreign-owned companies in India.

173. 'Communal Politics' as a phenomenon in modern India is best understood as:
(A) The healthy competition between different political parties.
(B) The use of religion-based identity for political mobilisation and to create social divisions.
(C) The politics of local village communities or 'communes'.
(D) A political theory advocating for a classless society.

174. The main programme of the Assertive Nationalists included:
(A) Petitions, Prayers, and Protests.
(B) Swadeshi, Boycott, and National Education.
(C) Cooperation with the British administration.
(D) Seeking dominion status through negotiation.

175. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Ideology/Group)
P. Early Nationalists
Q. Revolutionaries
R. Gandhian Movement
S. Left Wing
List II: (Characteristic Method/Goal)
1. Individual Heroism / Armed Struggle
2. Satyagraha / Non-violence
3. Focus on Peasants' and Workers' rights
4. Constitutional Agitation / '3 Ps'
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

176. The problem of Kashmir's integration was different from Hyderabad and Junagadh because:
(A) It involved an invasion from a foreign power (Pakistan) which complicated the accession.
(B) It involved a popular Hindu ruler wanting to join a Hindu-majority India.
(C) It was resolved by a direct British military intervention.
(D) The state's population was unanimously in favour of independence.

177. The 'New Education Policy' signifies post-independence efforts to:
(A) Revert to the ancient Gurukul system.
(B) Modernise and expand the educational infrastructure to meet national needs.
(C) Make religious education compulsory in all schools.
(D) Focus exclusively on primary education while closing universities.

178. What was a significant feature of the structure of bureaucracy in India?
(A) It is directly elected by the people.
(B) It is a temporary body that changes with every election.
(C) It is a permanent, hierarchical, and rule-based administrative system.
(D) It has no role in policy implementation.

179. The economic basis of nationalism lay in the common experience of:
(A) Economic prosperity under the British rule.
(B) Economic exploitation by British imperialism.
(C) The benefits of free trade with Britain.
(D) The rapid growth of indigenous heavy industries supported by the British.

180. The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 with the primary objective of:
(A) Launching an armed struggle.
(B) Demanding immediate and complete independence.
(C) Creating a platform for educated Indians to voice their political aspirations.
(D) Forming a parallel government.

181. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The Depressed Class Movement, led by leaders like B.R. Ambedkar, was critical for the assertion of Dalit identity and rights.
Reason (R) : The movement was primarily focused on gaining economic concessions from British industrialists and had no social or political agenda.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

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(D) The national education curriculum.

218. The ideology of the 'Revolutionaries' was distinct from that of the Assertive Nationalists because it:
(A) Relied on individual acts of violence and conspiracy rather than mass movements.
(B) Rejected the goal of complete independence.
(C) Had immense faith in the British judicial system.
(D) Was based on the principles of non-violence and Satyagraha.

219. The integration of Kashmir posed a unique challenge due to:
(A) Its geographic location and the invasion by Pakistan-backed raiders.
(B) The ruler's desire to join the Soviet Union.
(C) The population's demand to remain a British colony.
(D) Its lack of economic resources.

220. The 'Making of the Indian Constitution' is a testament to the founders' vision of a:
(A) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic.
(B) Theocratic and monarchical state.
(C) State with a single-party political system.
(D) Confederation of independent princely states.

221. The period of Assertive Nationalism (1905-1919) saw the rise of leaders who advocated for:
(A) Constitutional methods and petitions.
(B) Passive resistance, boycott, and Swadeshi.
(C) Complete cooperation with the British government.
(D) The dissolution of the Indian National Congress.

222. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The economic policies of post-independence India included a 'planning process' through Five-Year Plans.
Statement II : The Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) reforms of 1991 were a continuation of the same planning process without any policy shift.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

223. What was the central idea behind the 'Linguistic Reorganisation of States'?
(A) To redraw state boundaries to align with linguistic demographics, promoting local language and culture.
(B) To weaken India by creating internal divisions.
(C) To create administrative units based on geographic features like rivers and mountains.
(D) To implement a British plan for dividing India.

224. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 marked a new stage in the history of the Indian nationalist movement.
Reason (R) : It was the first time that a pan-Indian organization was formed to articulate Indian political demands on a national scale.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

225. The challenge of integrating Hyderabad was primarily due to the:
(A) Nizam's desire to maintain an independent status for his state.
(B) Geographic inaccessibility of the state.
(C) Majority Muslim population wanting to join Pakistan.
(D) British government's refusal to let go of Hyderabad.

226. The 'Left Wing Politics' in the national movement was characterized by its emphasis on:
(A) The rights and struggles of peasants and workers.
(B) The interests of landlords and capitalists.
(C) A pro-British political stance.
(D) The revival of ancient religious traditions.

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(D) Adopting a policy of complete economic self-sufficiency and isolation.

192. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The post-independence Indian state adopted a planned economy model for several decades.
Reason (R) : This was done to achieve goals of rapid industrialization, poverty alleviation, and building a self-reliant economy through state-directed investment.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

193. The primary difference between the ideologies of the Early and Assertive Nationalists lay in their:
(A) Ultimate goal of freedom.
(B) Social base.
(C) Methods of struggle and attitude towards the British.
(D) Religious beliefs.

194. 'Tribal Issues' in post-independence India are often related to:
(A) Issues of land alienation, displacement, and loss of culture due to development projects.
(B) Their demand for a separate country.
(C) Their refusal to accept modern medicine.
(D) Their dominance in the Indian bureaucracy.

195. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Event/Issue)
P. Integration of Hyderabad
Q. Linguistic Reorganization
R. Communal Politics
S. Economic Reforms
List II: (Associated Term/Concept)
1. States Reorganization Act
2. Two-Nation Theory
3. Operation Polo
4. Liberalization
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

196. The most significant contribution of the Gandhian mass movements to the freedom struggle was:
(A) The transformation of the nationalist movement into a mass movement involving all sections of society.
(B) The promotion of Indian leaders in the British administration.
(C) The successful negotiation for dominion status in the 1920s.
(D) The acquisition of military weapons from abroad.

197. The challenges of Partition were manifold, but the most pressing human problem was:
(A) The division of the national treasury.
(B) The redrawing of the political map.
(C) The rehabilitation of millions of displaced refugees.
(D) The allocation of parliamentary seats.

198. The structure of the Indian bureaucracy, often called the 'steel frame', is characterized by its:
(A) Permanence, neutrality, and hierarchical structure.
(B) Political allegiance and partisan nature.
(C) Short-term contractual appointments.
(D) Lack of accountability to any authority.

199. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Indian Independence Act of 1947 was the legislative act that led to the partition of India and the creation of two independent dominions.
Statement II : The Act was based on the proposals of the Cabinet Mission Plan.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

200. B. R. Ambedkar's crucial role in the 'making of the Indian Constitution' was his position as:
(A) The President of the Constituent Assembly.
(B) The Prime Minister of the interim

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(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

164. In post-independence India, the conflict between 'Development' and 'Tribal Issues' often arises because:
(A) Tribal communities resist modern education.
(B) Large industrial and mining projects are often located in tribal areas, leading to their displacement.
(C) Tribal people refuse to participate in the democratic process.
(D) The Constitution does not provide any safeguards for tribal rights.

165. The ideology of the 'Revolutionaries' differed from that of the mainstream Congress as they:
(A) Had faith in British justice.
(B) Believed in gradual reforms.
(C) Advocated individual heroic action and armed struggle.
(D) Focused only on social reforms.

166. A major feature of India's economic policy post-1991 has been 'Privatisation', which means:
(A) Increasing the number and scope of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
(B) Selling shares of PSUs to the private sector and public.
(C) Imposing stricter license regulations on private companies.
(D) Banning foreign direct investment.

167. The role of the middle class in the national movement was that of a:
(A) Silent spectator.
(B) Pioneer and leader, especially in the early phase.
(C) Consistent opponent.
(D) Follower of the peasant leadership.

168. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Indian Constitution establishes a dual polity with a clear division of powers between the Centre and the States.
Statement II : This division of powers is a key aspect of the study of Centre-State relations in India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

169. The 'economic basis of nationalism' was powerfully exposed by early leaders through the:
(A) Promotion of British industrial products.
(B) Justification of high taxes on Indian peasants.
(C) Formulation of the 'Drain Theory'.
(D) Demand for more British investment in India.

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170. Which of the following was NOT a principle of Panchsheel?
(A) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
(B) Equality and mutual benefit.
(C) Peaceful co-existence.
(D) Joining a specific military bloc for collective security.

171. The making of the Indian Constitution was a monumental task undertaken by the:
(A) British Parliament.
(B) A committee appointed by the Viceroy.
(C) The Constituent Assembly of India.
(D) A referendum of the entire population.

172. Consider the following statements regarding the challenges immediately after Indian independence:
(A) The country faced the challenge of rehabilitating refugees from Pakistan.
(B) The integration of the princely state of Hyderabad was achieved peacefully.
(C) The demarcation of the India-Pakistan border was a major point of contention.
(D) The economy was booming and there were no financial challenges.
(E) The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi was a major shock to the new nation.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, c, and e only
(B) b and d only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

2. Planning Commission
3. Refugee Problem
4. Sardar Patel

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

210. The 'Emergency' declared in 1975 had a profound impact on the 'Dynamics of Indian Politics' by:
(A) Leading to a major debate on the balance between individual liberty and state power.
(B) Permanently ending the multi-party system in India.
(C) Solving the problem of Centre-State relations forever.
(D) Causing the linguistic reorganisation of states.

211. Which of the following statements about the Swadeshi Movement is INCORRECT?
(A) It was a response to the Partition of Bengal.
(B) It promoted the use of Indian goods and boycott of foreign goods.
(C) It was solely a movement of the educated elite with no mass participation.
(D) It fostered a sense of national self-reliance.

212. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Muslim League, in its initial years, aimed to promote loyalty to the British government among Indian Muslims.
Statement II : The ideology of the Muslim League remained unchanged throughout its history, never demanding a separate state.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

213. The economic policies of the early post-independence era were dominated by:
(A) The strategy of state-led planning and the creation of a public sector.
(B) The concept of a free market with no government intervention.
(C) A complete reliance on foreign aid for all developmental activities.
(D) The principles of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation.

214. The participation of women in Gandhian mass movements was significant because it:
(A) Proved that women were not suited for politics.
(B) Brought the national movement out of the confines of the home and into the public sphere on a mass scale.
(C) Was limited to only women from the Nehru family.
(D) Caused a rift between male and female freedom fighters.

215. Consider the following statements about the Indian National Army (INA):
(A) It was founded by Subhas Chandra Bose in Singapore.
b. It consisted of Indian prisoners of war and civilian volunteers in Southeast Asi(A)
(C) Its aim was to secure Indian independence through armed struggle with Japanese help.
(D) It successfully liberated Delhi from British rule.
(E) It was a wing of the Indian National Congress.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and d only
(B) b and c only
(C) a, d, and e only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

216. The "tribal issues" in the context of development policies often include the problem of:
(A) The conflict between traditional tribal rights over 'jal, jangal, zameen' (water, forest, land) and modern development projects.
(B) The refusal of tribal communities to accept any form of development.
(C) The lack of natural resources in tribal areas.
(D) The over-representation of tribals in the Indian Parliament.

217. The most fundamental point of conflict in 'Centre-State Relations' in India revolves around:
(A) The division of administrative, financial, and legislative powers.
(B) Foreign policy decisions.
(C) The appointment of the army chief.

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government.
(C) The Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
(D) The chief advisor on foreign policy.

201. Which of the following best defines the 'social basis of nationalism' in its initial phase in India?
(A) The traditional feudal lords and zamindars.
(B) The newly emerged Western-educated urban middle class.
(C) The peasantry and rural artisans.
(D) The industrial working class.

202. The ideology of the Indian National Congress from 1885-1905 is best described as:
(A) Moderate / Early Nationalist
(B) Revolutionary
(C) Extremist / Assertive Nationalist
(D) Socialist

203. Consider the following statements about India's post-1991 economic policies:
(A) The policies are collectively known as LPG reforms.
(B) Liberalization involved reducing government controls.
(C) Privatization involved selling public sector units.
(D) Globalization involved isolating the Indian economy.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a and d only
(B) b and c only
(C) a, b, and c only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

204. The Depressed Class Movement led by B.R. Ambedkar demanded separate electorates, which was conceded through the Communal Award and later modified by the:
(A) Lucknow Pact
(B) Poona Pact
(C) Lahore Resolution
(D) Nehru Report

205. The 'Panchsheel' agreement, which became a bedrock of India's foreign policy, was signed between Jawaharlal Nehru and:
(A) Premier Zhou Enlai of China.
(B) President Eisenhower of the USA.
(C) President Nasser of Egypt.
(D) Premier Khrushchev of the USSR.

206. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The issue of linguistic reorganization of states was a major political challenge in post-independence India.
Reason (R) : There was a strong demand from different regions for the creation of states on a linguistic basis, which was seen as a more democratic and rational administrative setup.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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207. A primary difference between the Assertive Nationalists and the Revolutionaries was that:
(A) Assertive Nationalists focused on mass action like boycott, while Revolutionaries focused on individual heroic acts.
(B) Revolutionaries believed in non-violence, while Assertive Nationalists did not.
(C) Assertive Nationalists did not want Swaraj, while Revolutionaries did.
(D) Revolutionaries were part of the Indian National Congress, while Assertive Nationalists were not.

208. The issue of 'displacement' in modern India is most frequently associated with:
(A) The implementation of large-scale development projects like dams and mines.
(B) The annual transfer of government employees.
(C) The migration of youth for higher education abroad.
(D) The seasonal movement of pastoral communities.

209. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Challenge/Process)
P. Partition
Q. State Integration
R. Constitution Making
S. Economic Planning
List II: (Key Figure/Body)
1. (B)R. Ambedkar

227. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Swaraj
Q. Swadeshi
R. Satyagraha
S. Sarvodaya
List II: (Associated Meaning in Nationalist Context)
1. Boycott and use of indigenous goods
2. Self-rule or independence
3. Welfare of all
4. Truth-force / non-violent resistance
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

228. The Indian economy's shift towards Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) was a response to:
(A) A period of high economic growth and stability.
(B) An acute economic crisis faced by the country around 1991.
(C) The success of the state-controlled economy model.
(D) A directive from the United Nations.

229. The most significant social impact of the Partition of India was:
(A) The unprecedented communal violence and the creation of a refugee crisis.
(B) The creation of a unified cultural identity.
(C) The peaceful exchange of populations.
(D) The immediate eradication of the caste system.

230. A key feature of the Indian Constitution is the inclusion of Directive Principles of State Policy, which are:
(A) Policies for social and economic justice.
(B) Enforceable legal rights of all citizens.
(C) Restrictions on the powers of government.
(D) Provisions for national election conduct.

231. Consider the following events in the history of Indian nationalism:
(A) The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885.
(B) The Swadeshi movement was launched as a protest against the Partition of Bengal.
(C) The Gandhian era was marked by mass movements based on non-violence.
(D) Subhas Chandra Bose led the Indian National Army.
(E) The Muslim League was formed to support the INC's programmes.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) a, b, and e only
(B) c, d, and e only
(C) a, b, c, and d only
(D) All a, b, c, d, and e

232. The 'structure of bureaucracy' in India is best described as a:
(A) Democratic system based on popular vote.
(B) Hereditary system passed down through families.
(C) Permanent and hierarchical civil service responsible for administration.
(D) Temporary body of advisors to the Prime Minister.

233. The term "Assertive Nationalists" refers to a group within the Congress who:
(A) Advocated a more militant and radical approach to achieve Swaraj.
(B) Believed in the policy of 'mendicancy'.
(C) Wanted to cooperate with the British for gradual reforms.
(D) Remained aloof from the Swadeshi movement.

234. In the context of the Indian economy, what does 'Liberalisation' signify?
(A) The increase of state control over industries.
(B) The reduction or removal of government regulations and restrictions on economic activities.
(C) The nationalization of all private sector banks.
(D) The complete ban on international trade.

235. The 'Depressed Class Movement' was fundamentally a struggle for:
(A) Economic prosperity alone.
(B) Religious conversion.
(C) Social equality, human dignity, and political rights.

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(D) Secession from India.

236. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The 'Panchsheel' policy included the principle of mutual non-aggression.
Statement II : This policy was a key element of India's foreign policy of non-alignment.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

237. The genesis of Pakistan is associated with the Muslim League's adoption of the:
(A) Two-Nation Theory
(B) Nehru Report
(C) Doctrine of Lapse
(D) Panchsheel principles

238. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:
Assertion (A) : The participation of women in the Indian national movement increased significantly during the Gandhian phase.
Reason (R) : Gandhi's philosophy and methods, particularly Satyagraha, facilitated the participation of women in public life in large numbers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

239. The immediate aftermath of independence was marked by the "Challenges of Partition," which did NOT include:
(A) The massive refugee influx.
(B) Widespread communal riots.
(C) A dispute over the division of assets.
(D) A smooth and friendly demarcation of the international border.

240. The 'Planning process' through Five-Year Plans was adopted in India to:
(A) Dismantle the industrial base.
(B) Promote a laissez-faire economy.
(C) Guide the country's economic development in a structured manner.
(D) Prepare for military conflicts.

241. 'Centre-State Relations' in India are defined by the distribution of powers outlined in the:
(A) Indian Independence Act, 1947
(B) Government of India Act, 1935
(C) Constitution of India
(D) Nehru Report

242. The main ideological contribution of the Early Nationalists was:
(A) The call for an armed struggle.
(B) A systematic economic critique of colonialism and the drain of wealth theory.
(C) The demand for a separate state for Hindus.
(D) The promotion of revolutionary terrorism.

243. The case of the integration of the princely state of Junagadh was resolved when:
(A) The Nawab acceded to India.
(B) A plebiscite was held that showed an overwhelming majority in favour of joining India.
(C) The Indian army invaded and annexed the state.
(D) The United Nations intervened and made it a trust territory.

244. B.R. Ambedkar's role in the making of the constitution was crucial as he steered the drafting process and is often called the:
(A) Father of the Indian Nation
(B) Architect of the Indian Constitution
(C) Iron Man of India
(D) First President of India

245. Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Post-Independence Issue)
P. Economic Policy shift in 1991
Q. Redrawing internal boundaries
R. Political crisis in 1975
S. Integration of a reluctant state
List II: (Associated Term/Event)
1. Emergency
2. Linguistic Reorganisation
3. LPG Reforms
4. Police Action in Hyderabad
Codes:

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(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

246. The concept of Gandhian Mass Movements is best exemplified by:
(A) The Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements.
(B) The activities of the Indian National Army (INA).
(C) The Ghadar Party's revolutionary plans.
(D) The constitutional debates within the legislative assembly.

247. The 'New Education Policy' initiatives in independent India aimed to:
(A) Restrict education only to the elite.
(B) Promote literacy and create a skilled workforce for national development.
(C) Abolish the study of English.
(D) Privatize the entire education sector from the beginning.

248. The primary conflict in the topic 'Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues' arises from:
(A) The clash between the state's developmental agenda (dams, mines) and the rights of indigenous people.
(B) The linguistic differences between tribal groups.
(C) The foreign policy affecting tribal areas.
(D) The structure of bureaucracy in tribal regions.

249. Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The period of Emergency (1975-77) saw the strengthening of democratic rights and press freedom.
Statement II : The 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, passed during the Emergency, made significant changes, some of which were controversial.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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250. The ideology of the Assertive Nationalists, who led the Swadeshi movement, can be summed up by their emphasis on:
(A) Loyalty to the British Crown and seeking minor concessions.
(B) Self-reliance (Atmashakti), self-sacrifice, and demanding Swaraj.
(C) The belief that British rule was a divine blessing.
(D) Abandoning all political activity in favour of social reform.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The rise of Indian nationalism was a multifaceted phenomenon, deeply embedded in the social and economic conditions created by colonial rule. The economic basis of this nationalism was largely a response to British policies that led to the de-industrialisation of India, the ruin of traditional artisans and craftsmen, and the immense pressure on land, which fostered a shared experience of economic subjugation. This created a common ground for discontent among disparate groups. Concurrently, the social basis was shaped by the emergence of a new, Western-educated middle class. This class, while a product of the colonial administrative and educational system, became the vanguard of the nationalist movement, utilising modern ideas of democracy, liberty, and self-governance to critique the very foundation of British rule. The birth of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885 marked the institutionalisation of this nascent nationalist sentiment. In its initial phase, spanning roughly from 1885 to 1920, the INC was dominated by the Early Nationalists. Their ideology was characterised by a profound belief in constitutional methods and a sense of loyalty to the British Crown, hoping to reform the system from within. Their programme focused on petitions, prayers, and protest, a method often termed 'political mendicancy', aiming for gradual political and administrative reforms rather than outright independence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the source, what was the principal ideological characteristic of the Early Nationalists?

274. A key point of contention between the Depressed Class Movement leaders and the Congress, as implied in the source, was over the issue of:
(A) the demand for separate electorates and specific constitutional safeguards.
(B) the method of achieving political freedom from the British.
(C) the role of industrialisation in independent India.
(D) the adoption of non-violence as a political tool.

275. Which of the following policy proposals would be most characteristic of the Left Wing politics described in the paragraph?
(A) The promotion of private enterprise and foreign investment.
(B) The maintenance of the existing land tenure system.
(C) The nationalisation of key industries and abolition of landlordism.
(D) The establishment of a political system based on religious identity.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The trajectory of the Indian freedom struggle was profoundly complicated by the rise of communal politics, which posited that the primary identity and interests of people were defined by their religion. This ideology challenged the secular, unified nationalism championed by the Indian National Congress. The Muslim League, initially formed to protect the political rights of Muslims, evolved under the leadership of M.A. Jinnah into the foremost advocate of this communal viewpoint. It propounded the 'two-nation theory,' which argued that Hindus and Muslims were two distinct nations who could not coexist within a single state. This ideological stance formed the genesis of the demand for Pakistan, a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. The League's political strategy increasingly focused on highlighting the incompatibility between the two communities and asserting that the Muslim minority's interests would be subsumed by the Hindu majority in a united, independent India. This sharpening of communal identities created a deep political schism, steering the narrative away from a simple coloniser-colonised conflict towards a complex triangular contest involving the British, the Congress, and the Muslim League. The escalating communal tensions and the League's unwavering demand ultimately made the partition of the subcontinent seem an unavoidable, albeit tragic, outcome in the final phase leading to independence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What was the central argument of the 'two-nation theory' as propounded by the Muslim League?
(A) Hindus and Muslims constituted two separate nations incapable of coexisting in one state.
(B) India should be divided into multiple states based on linguistic identity.
(C) The British and Indians were two distinct nations that required separate governance.
(D) The interests of all minority communities in India were identical.

277. The rise of communal politics, according to the source, had what effect on the freedom struggle?
(A) It simplified the struggle into a direct conflict between India and Britain.
(B) It united all Indian communities under the single banner of the Congress.
(C) It accelerated the process of peaceful transfer of power without any conflict.
(D) It introduced a complex triangular dynamic involving the British, Congress, and Muslim League.

278. The source describes the genesis of the demand for Pakistan as being rooted in:
(A) the Indian National Congress's advocacy for a Hindu state.
(B) the ideological evolution of the Muslim League and its adoption of the two-nation theory.
(C) a British policy designed to create two equal and strong dominions.
(D) the economic grievances of the Muslim peasantry against Hindu landlords.

279. According to the paragraph, the Muslim League's political strategy was increasingly based on:
(A) promoting a secular and unified Indian identity.
(B) working in close collaboration with the

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British, while Early Nationalists opposed them entirely.

257. According to the paragraph, the Swadeshi movement's primary objective was to:
(A) exclusively promote Indian textiles over foreign imports.
(B) petition the British government for greater economic concessions.
(C) encourage Indians to adopt Western educational and cultural norms.
(D) achieve Swaraj through a comprehensive programme of self-reliance.

258. The source suggests that the ideology of the Revolutionaries was born out of:
(A) a disillusionment with the perceived ineffectiveness of mainstream political methods.
(B) a firm belief in the principles of non-violence and passive resistance.
(C) a strategic alliance with the Assertive Nationalists' programme.
(D) a desire to achieve political reform through negotiation with the British.

259. How did the concept of Swadeshi, as described in the text, go beyond a simple economic boycott?
(A) It was limited to the political sphere by demanding immediate elections.
(B) It was a programme designed and funded by the British authorities.
(C) It included the promotion of national education and indigenous culture.
(D) It focused solely on the revival of ancient religious practices.

260. Which of the following can be inferred about the Assertive Nationalists' view of British rule?
(A) They questioned the fundamental legitimacy of the colonial presence in India.
(B) They believed in the inherent justice and fairness of the British system.
(C) They saw British rule as a legitimate system that needed minor reforms.
(D) They sought a partnership with the British for India's economic development.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The entry of Mahatma Gandhi transformed the Indian national movement from an elite-driven agitation to a broad-based struggle involving vast sections of the population. The era of Gandhian Mass Movements was characterised by the novel application of Satyagraha, a strategy of non-violent resistance, which mobilised millions and posed an unprecedented challenge to the moral and administrative authority of the British Raj. These movements, including the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movements, harnessed the power of the masses by articulating their grievances in a national framework. Parallel to this mainstream Gandhian struggle, the role of Subhas Chandra Bose offered a different, militant alternative. Disagreeing with Gandhi's non-violent methods, Bose sought to achieve India's freedom through an armed struggle, forging alliances with Axis powers during World War II. His formation of the Indian National Army (INA) and his slogan "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!" galvanised a significant section of Indians, particularly those outside the country. While Gandhi's path relied on moral force and mass participation in civil resistance, Bose's strategy was predicated on military action and international diplomacy, representing two distinct, though ultimately convergent, streams of the freedom struggle aimed at securing complete independence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What was the fundamental shift in the national movement brought about by Gandhi?
(A) A shift from demanding independence to seeking dominion status.
(B) A transition from a mass-based struggle to an elite-driven one.
(C) A move from non-violent methods to revolutionary armed struggle.
(D) A transformation from an elite agitation to a broad-based mass movement.

262. The source contrasts the approaches of Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose by highlighting:
(A) Gandhi's focus on international diplomacy versus Bose's focus on domestic mobilisation.
(B) Gandhi's reliance on non-violent resistance versus Bose's strategy of armed struggle.
(C) Gandhi's goal of dominion status versus Bose's goal of complete independence.

developing heavy industries, and building infrastructure, aiming for self-sufficiency and equitable growth. However, this development model also created complex problems, such as the issue of Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues, where large-scale projects like dams and mines often led to the displacement of communities, particularly tribal populations, from their ancestral lands. On the international front, India's Foreign Policy Initiatives were anchored in the principle of non-alignment. A cornerstone of this policy was Panchsheel, the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which guided its relations with other nations. The dynamics of Indian politics have been eventful, marked by periods of stability and crisis, such as the declaration of the Emergency, which tested the resilience of its democratic institutions. Since the 1990s, the Indian economy has undergone a paradigm shift towards Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG), moving away from state-led planning towards a more market-oriented system integrated with the global economy.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What was the cornerstone of India's early foreign policy as mentioned in the paragraph?
(A) A military alliance with the United States.
(B) A policy of isolationism from global affairs.
(C) Joining the Soviet bloc for economic aid.
(D) The principles of Panchsheel and non-alignment.

297. The source describes the shift towards Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) as a move:
(A) away from state-led planning towards a market-oriented system.
(B) towards greater state control and centralized planning.
(C) away from a market-oriented system to a socialist one.
(D) towards decreasing integration with the global economy.

298. According to the text, what was a significant negative consequence of India's early development projects?
(A) The failure to build any heavy industry.
(B) The displacement of communities, especially tribal ones.
(C) The complete neglect of agricultural development.
(D) An over-reliance on foreign private investment.

299. The early economic model of independent India is described as a:
(A) completely laissez-faire capitalist system.
(B) mixed economy guided by a centralized planning process.
(C) feudal economy based on agricultural tribute.
(D) colonial economy dependent on a single export crop.

300. The mention of the Emergency in the context of the dynamics of Indian politics serves as an example of:
(A) a major crisis that tested India's democratic framework.
(B) a period of exceptional economic growth.
(C) the smooth and uninterrupted functioning of democracy.
(D) a successful implementation of foreign policy.

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(A) During the era of Gandhian mass movements.
(B) During the initial phase of the Indian National Congress (1885-1905).
(C) During the period of revolutionary activities before World War I.
(D) After the attainment of independence in 1947.

269. How did the Western education of the middle class aid the nationalist cause?
(A) It encouraged them to fully support and assimilate into the British administrative system.
(B) It isolated them from the rest of Indian society, making their efforts ineffective.
(C) It provided them with the political concepts to critique colonial governance effectively.
(D) It led them to reject all forms of modern political thought in favour of tradition.

270. What can be inferred about the evolution of women's roles in the national movement?
(A) Their role remained static and supportive throughout the struggle.
(B) Their participation decreased significantly as the movement became more confrontational.
(C) They were actively discouraged from participating by nationalist leaders.
(D) Their role evolved from supportive to active and direct participation.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Within the broader spectrum of the Indian freedom struggle, a distinct political stream emerged known as Left Wing Politics. This ideology gained traction particularly in the 1920s and 30s, influenced by socialist and communist ideas from the Russian Revolution. Proponents of Left Wing politics, including communists and socialists within and outside the Congress, critiqued the mainstream nationalist movement for what they perceived as its bourgeois character and its failure to adequately address the concerns of the workers and peasants. They advocated for a radical socio-economic transformation alongside political independence, calling for the abolition of landlordism, nationalisation of key industries, and extensive rights for the working class. Another critical social and political mobilisation during this period was the Depressed Class Movement. This movement, distinct from the mainstream Congress-led nationalism, was focused on eradicating the deep-seated social disabilities and discrimination faced by castes deemed 'untouchable'. Leaders like B.R. Ambedkar became powerful voices for the Depressed Classes, arguing that social liberation was as crucial, if not more so, than political freedom from the British. They sought to secure political representation, educational opportunities, and social equality through separate electorates and constitutional safeguards, sometimes placing them at odds with the Congress's vision of a unified national front.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What was the primary criticism of the mainstream nationalist movement by the proponents of Left Wing politics?
(A) Its excessive focus on the rights of workers and peasants.
(B) Its rejection of political independence as a primary goal.
(C) Its perceived bourgeois character and neglect of socio-economic issues.
(D) Its alignment with feudal and landlord interests against the British.

272. The Depressed Class Movement, as described in the text, prioritized:
(A) achieving political independence above all other considerations.
(B) securing social equality and political rights for 'untouchable' castes.
(C) forging a unified front with the Indian National Congress at all costs.
(D) promoting the economic interests of the industrial working class.

273. According to the paragraph, the Left Wing politics in India was significantly influenced by:
(A) the principles of laissez-faire capitalism.
(B) the ideals of the American Revolution.
(C) the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence.
(D) the socialist and communist ideas from the Russian Revolution.

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negotiations.
(B) a plebiscite was used to determine the state's future.
(C) the Indian government had to use force to ensure integration.
(D) the issue was resolved through the United Nations.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The task of building a modern Indian state after 1947 required the creation of a robust constitutional framework. B.R. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in this monumental endeavour as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. His intellectual prowess and legal acumen were central to the making of the Indian Constitution. The document he helped architect was not merely a set of rules for governance but a charter for social revolution. A key feature of the Indian Constitution is its comprehensive and detailed nature, borrowing and adapting principles from various global constitutions while remaining firmly rooted in Indian realities. It establishes a parliamentary democracy and a federal structure with a strong unitary bias. Among its most significant features are the detailed provisions for Fundamental Rights, which are justiciable and protect citizens against state excesses, and the Directive Principles of State Policy, which, though non-justiciable, lay down the social and economic goals the state should strive for. The Constitution's commitment to social justice is further evident in its provisions for affirmative action and the abolition of untouchability, reflecting Ambedkar's lifelong struggle for the emancipation of the depressed classes. It is a living document designed to evolve with a changing society.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. What was the specific role of B.R. Ambedkar in the making of the Indian Constitution, as mentioned in the source?
(A) He was the President of the Constituent Assembly.
(B) He was the sole author of the entire constitutional document.
(C) He was a representative of the British government.
(D) He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

287. The source distinguishes between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy by stating that:
(A) Fundamental Rights are for citizens while Directive Principles are for foreigners.
(B) Fundamental Rights are non-justiciable while Directive Principles are justiciable.
(C) Fundamental Rights are protections against the state, while Directive Principles are goals for the state.
(D) Fundamental Rights focus on economic goals while Directive Principles focus on political rights.

288. The paragraph describes the Indian Constitution as a 'charter for social revolution' primarily because it:
(A) advocates for the overthrow of the government by force.
(B) includes provisions aimed at transforming India's hierarchical social structure.
(C) was drafted in a very short period of time.
(D) borrowed all its features from the British constitution.

289. What does the phrase 'federal structure with a strong unitary bias' imply about the Indian political system?
(A) The states are more powerful than the central government.
(B) India is a confederation of completely sovereign states.
(C) The central government has no authority over state matters.
(D) Power is divided between the centre and states, but the centre holds more significant power.

290. B.R. Ambedkar's influence on the Constitution is particularly reflected in which of its features?
(A) The provisions related to social justice and the abolition of untouchability.
(B) The adoption of a parliamentary system of government.
(C) The detailed procedures for amending the Constitution.
(D) The establishment of a bicameral legislature at the centre.

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Indian National Congress.
(C) emphasising the alleged incompatibility between Hindu and Muslim interests.
(D) demanding social reforms within the Muslim community.

280. What can be inferred about the relationship between communal politics and the secular nationalism of the Congress?
(A) They were complementary ideologies that worked towards a common goal.
(B) The Congress eventually adopted the principles of communal politics.
(C) The two ideologies did not interact and developed in complete isolation from each other.
(D) Communal politics was a direct and fundamental challenge to the Congress's vision of a unified India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The final years of British rule were marked by a tumultuous journey towards independence, a process inextricably linked with the tragedy of Partition. As independence became an imminent reality, the political landscape was dominated by intense negotiations and escalating communal violence. The decision to partition the subcontinent into India and Pakistan unleashed unprecedented challenges. The immediate aftermath of independence in 1947 was consumed by the cataclysmic effects of Partition, including mass migrations, communal riots, and the immense humanitarian crisis of rehabilitating millions of displaced refugees. Beyond this immediate crisis, the newly independent Indian state faced the formidable task of national consolidation, specifically the integration of the Indian Princely States. Over 500 such states, varying in size and power, had to be persuaded or coerced into acceding to the Indian Union. While most states joined peacefully, the process was fraught with difficulties in several key cases. The integration of Kashmir, Hyderabad, and Junagarh proved particularly challenging. The ruler of Kashmir acceded to India under the duress of a tribal invasion, leading to a long-standing dispute. Hyderabad's Nizam wished to remain independent, necessitating a police action. Similarly, the Nawab of Junagarh's decision to join Pakistan was reversed by a plebiscite, highlighting the complex political and military manoeuvres required to forge a unified Indian nation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. Which of the following is described as an immediate and cataclysmic challenge for India after independence?
(A) The humanitarian crisis caused by Partition.
(B) The formulation of a new economic policy.
(C) The linguistic reorganisation of states.
(D) The establishment of a new bureaucracy.

282. The source highlights the integration of Kashmir, Hyderabad, and Junagarh as examples of:
(A) the seamless and voluntary accession of all princely states.
(B) cases where the integration process was particularly difficult and complex.
(C) princely states that were allowed to remain fully independent.
(D) the failure of the Indian government's integration policy.

283. What can be inferred about the process of integrating the princely states?
(A) It was a uniform process applied identically to all states.
(B) It involved a combination of diplomacy, persuasion, and military pressure.
(C) It was entirely managed by the departing British authorities.
(D) It was met with no resistance from any of the princely rulers.

284. According to the paragraph, the final phase towards independence was characterised by:
(A) intense negotiations overshadowed by the prospect of partition.
(B) complete unity among all Indian political parties.
(C) a peaceful and orderly transfer of power.
(D) a focus on economic development over political settlement.

285. The case of Hyderabad's integration is mentioned to illustrate an instance where:
(A) the ruler willingly acceded to India following

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(A) A commitment to revolutionary struggle and armed conflict.
(B) A belief in constitutional agitation and reform from within the system.
(C) A demand for immediate and complete independence from Britain.
(D) A focus on mobilising the masses for widespread civil disobedience.

252. The source suggests that the economic basis for Indian nationalism was primarily a result of:
(A) the common feeling of economic hardship caused by colonial policies.
(B) the rapid industrial growth sponsored by the British administration.
(C) the shared prosperity experienced by all classes under colonial rule.
(D) the successful integration of the Indian economy into the global market.

253. What can be inferred about the role of the Western-educated middle class from the paragraph?
(A) They were entirely co-opted by the colonial administration and opposed nationalism.
(B) They primarily focused on social reforms while ignoring political questions.
(C) They acted as the primary intellectual and organisational force for the early nationalist movement.
(D) They were isolated from the economic grievances of the general populace.

254. The formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885 is depicted in the text as:
(A) a revolutionary event that immediately challenged British sovereignty.
(B) a British-sponsored initiative to control Indian political aspirations.
(C) a movement exclusively representing the interests of the peasantry.
(D) the formal organisation of a pre-existing nationalist consciousness.

255. The term 'political mendicancy', as applied to the programme of the Early Nationalists, implies a methodology based on:
(A) aggressive confrontation and direct action.
(B) organising widespread strikes and economic boycotts.
(C) appealing to the conscience and generosity of the colonial rulers.
(D) establishing a parallel system of governance.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The period following the initial phase of the Indian National Congress witnessed a significant ideological shift with the rise of Assertive Nationalists, who were critical of the moderate methods of their predecessors. This new leadership advocated for a more confrontational approach, challenging the very legitimacy of British rule and rejecting the notion of 'political mendicancy'. Their ideology was rooted in a revival of indigenous pride, cultural heritage, and a call for direct action. This shift found its most potent expression in the Swadeshi movement, which was not merely an economic boycott of foreign goods but a comprehensive programme aimed at achieving Swaraj, or self-rule. The concept of Swadeshi extended to the spheres of national education, indigenous enterprise, and the revival of vernacular languages and cultural forms, seeking to build a self-reliant nation. Alongside this assertive, mass-based political stream, another strand of nationalism emerged in the form of revolutionary activities. The Revolutionaries, disillusioned with both moderate and assertive political methods, believed in the efficacy of individual heroism and armed struggle to overthrow the colonial state. They sought to inspire the masses by making supreme sacrifices and striking terror into the hearts of the colonial administrators, representing a more radical and immediate demand for complete independence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What was the core difference in methodology between the Assertive Nationalists and the Early Nationalists?
(A) Assertive Nationalists focused exclusively on economic issues, while Early Nationalists focused on political reform.
(B) Assertive Nationalists advocated for direct action, while Early Nationalists preferred constitutional petitions.
(C) Assertive Nationalists sought dominion status, while Early Nationalists demanded complete independence.
(D) Assertive Nationalists collaborated with the

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

After independence, India embarked on a massive project of nation-building, which required significant administrative and social restructuring. The inherited colonial administrative framework, the 'steel frame', formed the basis for the new structure of bureaucracy, which was tasked with implementing state policies and driving development. A critical social and political challenge was the Linguistic Reorganisation of States. The demand for states to be created on the basis of language was a powerful popular aspiration, as language was seen as the primary marker of cultural identity. Although initially resisted by the national leadership for fear of fissiparous tendencies, the government eventually conceded, leading to a large-scale redrawing of India's internal political map. This process aimed to align administrative boundaries with linguistic ones, thereby strengthening both regional identity and federalism. In the realm of social development, education was identified as a key area for reform. Successive governments have formulated new education policies to address the challenges of access, equity, and quality. These policies have aimed to modernize the curriculum, expand higher education, and universalize elementary education, reflecting a continuous effort to mould an educational system that serves the developmental goals and social fabric of a diverse nation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What was the primary basis for the Linguistic Reorganisation of States in India?
(A) The administrative convenience of the central government.
(B) The geographical features and terrain of the regions.
(C) The popular demand to align state boundaries with cultural and linguistic identities.
(D) The economic viability of the proposed new states.

292. According to the paragraph, what was the initial attitude of the national leadership towards the demand for linguistic states?
(A) They resisted the demand due to fears that it might weaken national unity.
(B) They immediately accepted and implemented the demand.
(C) They were indifferent and did not consider the issue important.
(D) They proposed organising states based on religious identity instead.

293. The source suggests that the post-independence structure of bureaucracy in India was:
(A) created entirely from scratch with no historical precedent.
(B) modeled on the American presidential system's civil service.
(C) designed to be weak and subordinate to local governments.
(D) built upon the foundation of the inherited colonial administrative system.

294. What are the stated objectives of the new education policies mentioned in the text?
(A) To exclusively promote traditional and religious forms of education.
(B) To address issues of access, equity, quality, and modernization.
(C) To restrict access to higher education to a small elite.
(D) To replace English with a single Indian language at all levels.

295. The process of linguistic reorganisation is presented in the source as an effort to:
(A) eliminate regional identities in favour of a single national identity.
(B) divide the country into smaller, more easily manageable military zones.
(C) strengthen Indian federalism by acknowledging linguistic-cultural identities.
(D) follow the administrative map left behind by the British.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In the post-independence era, India's economic and foreign policies were shaped by the twin goals of national development and maintaining sovereignty in a bipolar world. The government adopted a model of a mixed economy, guided by centralized Economic Policies and the Planning process. Through a series of Five-Year Plans, the state took a leading role in directing investment,

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(D) Gandhi's appeal to the elite versus Bose's appeal to the rural masses.

263. According to the paragraph, the power of Gandhian Mass Movements lay in their ability to:
(A) secure alliances with foreign military powers.
(B) primarily use constitutional petitions and legal challenges.
(C) challenge the moral and administrative authority of the Raj.
(D) create a separate economic system independent of the British.

264. What can be inferred about the relationship between the strategies of Gandhi and Bose?
(A) They were identical in their methods but differed in their ultimate goals.
(B) Bose's strategy was a direct continuation of Gandhi's early political career.
(C) Gandhi fully endorsed Bose's formation of the Indian National Army.
(D) They were seen as two divergent paths aiming for the same outcome of independence.

265. The Indian National Army (INA) formed by Subhas Chandra Bose represented which type of approach to the freedom struggle?
(A) A militant approach based on armed struggle and foreign alliances.
(B) A constitutional approach based on negotiation and debate.
(C) A non-violent approach based on civil disobedience.
(D) An economic approach based on boycotting foreign goods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Indian national movement, while often viewed through the lens of its principal leaders, was fundamentally a collaborative enterprise sustained by diverse social groups. The role of the middle class was particularly pivotal. Comprising professionals like lawyers, doctors, teachers, and clerks, this class formed the intellectual and organisational backbone of the movement, especially in its early stages. They articulated nationalist ideologies, manned the committees of the Indian National Congress, and disseminated nationalist ideas through the press and public forums. Their Western education gave them the tools to critique colonial rule using the coloniser's own language and political concepts. Over time, as the movement evolved into a mass struggle, the participation of women became increasingly significant and visible. Initially confined to supportive roles, women's participation surged during the Gandhian phase. They broke traditional barriers to join processions, picket shops selling foreign goods and liquor, and actively participate in civil disobedience campaigns, even courting arrest and imprisonment. Their involvement not only broadened the social base of the movement but also imbued it with immense moral force and legitimacy, challenging both colonial authority and patriarchal norms within Indian society. This active participation was a crucial step in the emancipation of women and their subsequent role in the public life of independent India.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What was the primary contribution of the middle class to the national movement, as described in the source?
(A) Providing financial support through large industrial enterprises.
(B) Forming the intellectual and organisational foundation of the movement.
(C) Leading armed peasant rebellions across the country.
(D) Acting as intermediaries between the British and the rural masses.

267. The source indicates that women's participation in the national movement had a dual impact, which was:
(A) securing economic benefits for their families and promoting religious reforms.
(B) strengthening the movement against colonial rule and challenging internal patriarchal structures.
(C) gaining favour with the British authorities and ensuring educational opportunities.
(D) supporting the revolutionary underground and providing logistical support.

268. According to the paragraph, when did the participation of women in the freedom struggle become most significant and visible?

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ANSWERS

1. (B) The systematic drain of wealth from India to Britain.
   The systematic drain of wealth from India to Britain served as a crucial economic foundation for the rise of nationalism. Early leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji articulated this through the drain theory, illustrating how resources were siphoned off without reciprocal benefits. This economic exploitation led to widespread poverty and deindustrialization. Consequently, Indians from various backgrounds unified against colonial policies, realizing that national prosperity required ending British economic dominance.

2. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
   Early Nationalists operated with a deep conviction in British justice, believing that logical appeals would eventually lead to meaningful administrative reforms. Conversely, Assertive Nationalists viewed these constitutional methods as ineffective and humiliating. They advocated for more radical approaches, including direct action and mass mobilization, rather than relying on the goodwill of the colonial administration. Therefore, while the first statement is accurate, the second incorrectly identifies the assertive methods.

3. (C) Traditional landed aristocrats were the main force behind the nationalist movement.
   The early phase of Indian nationalism was characterized by the leadership of the Western-educated middle class, including professionals like lawyers and journalists. While traditional landed aristocrats held social status, they were generally not the primary drivers of this modern political awakening. The movement was fueled by a new social consciousness emerging from urban centers, focusing on institutional reforms and civil rights rather than the interests of the nobility.

4. (D) The principles of self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and direct action.
   Assertive Nationalists fundamentally changed the direction of the freedom struggle by moving away from constitutional agitation. They placed great emphasis on individual and collective self-reliance, often termed as Atmashakti, alongside the spirit of self-sacrifice. Their primary objective was the attainment of Swaraj, which they sought through active methods such as boycotting foreign goods and promoting indigenous education. This approach marked a significant departure from earlier moderate methods.

5. (C) Organising mass-based non-cooperation movements.
   Early Nationalists focused on constitutional methods to achieve administrative reforms and greater Indian representation. They demanded the separation of the judiciary from the executive and urged for reduced military spending to improve the economy. However, they did not believe in or organize mass-based non-cooperation movements, as they preferred to work within the existing legal framework. Mass mobilization became a primary feature only during the later phases of the movement.

6. (B) The promotion of indigenous goods and the boycott of foreign goods.
   Swadeshi was a core component of the nationalist program, emphasizing economic self-reliance by encouraging the use of Indian-made goods. This strategy was paired with a boycott of foreign merchandise, particularly British textiles, to exert economic pressure on the colonial government. Beyond economics, Swadeshi fostered a sense of national pride and unity. It encouraged the growth of domestic industries and institutions, making it a powerful political tool.

7. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
   The Revolutionaries rejected the constitutional methods of the Early Nationalists, viewing them as ineffective for ending foreign rule. Instead, they were inspired by militant struggles and sought to overthrow the British government through armed rebellion and heroic individual acts. They believed that violent resistance was necessary to instill fear in the administration and

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rule. Early Nationalists favored constitutional agitation, involving petitions and dialogue with the British. In contrast, Assertive Nationalists advocated for more radical methods, such as boycotts, Swadeshi, and passive resistance. While both groups generally sought some form of self-rule, they fundamentally disagreed on whether to cooperate with the existing legal system or to use mass-based confrontational methods.

53. (C) The large-scale displacement of communities, especially tribals.
Large-scale development projects in post-independence India, while intended for national progress, have often resulted in significant social costs. Projects like mega-dams have led to the forced displacement of millions of people from their ancestral lands. Tribal communities are disproportionately affected by these projects, as their livelihoods are deeply connected to the forests and rivers that are often submerged or diverted. This displacement frequently occurs without adequate rehabilitation, leading to long-term social and economic marginalization for these indigenous groups.

54. (A) Widespread popular agitations and demands for states based on language.
The reorganization of Indian states along linguistic lines was a direct response to intense public pressure and grassroots movements. Following independence, various regions witnessed powerful agitations demanding that administrative boundaries reflect the linguistic identity of the people. The government eventually recognized that linguistic states could enhance democratic participation and simplify administration. This process culminated in the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which reshaped the internal map of India to better accommodate its diverse linguistic landscape.

55. (C) The suspension of fundamental rights and curtailment of civil liberties.
The imposition of the National Emergency from 1975 to 1977 had profound consequences for the Indian political system. During this period, the government exercised extraordinary powers, leading to the suspension of fundamental citizen rights and the enforcement of strict press censorship. Political opponents were detained without trial, and the democratic process was effectively halted. This era remains a controversial period in modern history, serving as a reminder of the fragility of constitutional protections and the potential for executive overreach.

56. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Communal politics involves the exploitation of religious and cultural identities to achieve specific political goals, often creating divisions between different social groups. In the Indian context, this mobilization of religious identity became increasingly prevalent during the colonial era. It fostered a climate of mutual distrust and conflicting interests among religious communities. This rising communal sentiment was a decisive factor that ultimately hindered national unity and led to the inevitable partition of the subcontinent into two separate nations.

57. (B) A state-led planning process with a significant role for the public sector.
In the years following independence, India adopted an economic model characterized by a dominant role for the state. This approach was implemented through a central planning process, guided by Five-Year Plans, to achieve rapid industrialization and social welfare. The government invested heavily in the public sector, which controlled key industries such as steel, power, and transport. This state-led development strategy aimed to build a self-reliant economy and reduce the inequalities inherited from the colonial era.

58. (A) To create a consciousness of national identity and to present political demands through constitutional means.
The program of the Early Nationalists was focused on fostering a sense of national unity among diverse Indian populations while working within the legal framework of the British administration. They used constitutional methods like petitions, public meetings, and resolutions to advocate for administrative reforms and greater Indian representation. Their goal was to educate the public about political rights and to build a systematic critique of colonial rule, rather than launching immediate mass movements or violent rebellions for independence.

59. (C) Lahore Resolution

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the urgent rehabilitation of these refugees while trying to restore law and order. This immense challenge overshadowed many other administrative priorities and tested the resilience of the newly formed nation.

16. (B) A police action by the Indian government.
The integration of Hyderabad was a complex process because the Nizam initially refused to join the Indian Union, seeking instead to remain independent. As internal conditions deteriorated and the activities of the Razakars increased, the Indian government launched a military operation known as 'Operation Polo' in September 1948. This police action effectively ended the Nizam's rule and brought the princely state into the Union, ensuring the country's territorial integrity.

17. (B) The establishment of a parliamentary democracy with a federal structure.
The framers of the Indian Constitution envisioned a governance model that balanced a strong central authority with the autonomy of state governments. This led to the adoption of a federal structure combined with a parliamentary system of democracy. This framework was designed to accommodate the country's immense diversity while ensuring political stability and representative governance. It remains the foundational structure through which the Indian state operates and manages its affairs.

18. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The integration of Junagadh was finalized after a popular plebiscite confirmed that the majority of its inhabitants wished to join India. In contrast, the Maharaja of Kashmir initially hesitated to join either dominion, hoping to maintain independence. It was only after an invasion by Pakistan-backed tribal raiders that he signed the Instrument of Accession to seek Indian military assistance. Therefore, the ruler of Kashmir did not accede without conflict.

19. (C) A presidential system of government
The Indian Constitution incorporates several defining features, such as Fundamental Rights for citizens and Directive Principles of State Policy for governance. It also established a bicameral legislature at the central level, consisting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. However, India adopted a parliamentary system of government, where the executive is responsible to the legislature. This is distinct from a presidential system, which is not a feature of the Indian polity.

20. (D) The colonial British administration.
After independence, India retained the bureaucratic framework established during British rule, often referred to as the 'steel frame' of administration. This system was professional, hierarchical, and based on competitive examinations. While the nomenclature changed from the Indian Civil Service to the Indian Administrative Service, the essential organizational structure remained the same. This continuity provided the newly independent nation with a stable administrative apparatus to manage the challenges of governance and development.

21. (C) Restructuring and modernising the education system.
Post-independence education policies were designed to transform the colonial educational legacy into a system that met the needs of a modern, democratic nation. These initiatives aimed at universalizing elementary education and expanding vocational and technical training. The goal was to foster scientific temper, promote national integration, and provide the human resources necessary for economic development. Such reforms were essential for addressing the widespread illiteracy and regional disparities inherited from the British era.

22. (B) The policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence.
Panchsheel, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, was a landmark doctrine in India's early foreign policy. It emphasized mutual respect for territorial integrity, non-aggression, and non-interference in internal affairs. This philosophy was central to India's identity as a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War. By advocating for these principles, India sought to promote global peace and avoid becoming entangled in the military alliances of major world powers.

23. (D) The period of national emergency imposed from 1975 to 1977.
In Indian political history, 'the Emergency' specifically refers to the twenty-one-month

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awaken the masses. Thus, their ideology was a direct contradiction to the moderates' petitions.

8. (A) Non-violence and civil disobedience.
Gandhian mass movements revolutionized the struggle for independence by introducing the unique concepts of Satyagraha and Ahimsa. These movements relied on the collective power of non-violence and the deliberate, peaceful defiance of unjust laws. By mobilizing diverse sections of society, including peasants and women, Gandhi transformed the nationalist cause into a truly popular movement. This strategy aimed to challenge the moral authority of the British.

9. (C) He revitalized and led the INA to fight against the British.
Subhas Chandra Bose played a transformative role in the history of the Indian National Army by taking over its leadership in Southeast Asia. He successfully revitalized the organization, infusing it with a renewed sense of purpose and military discipline. Under his command, the INA prepared for an armed invasion of India to liberate it from British rule. His leadership provided a militant alternative to the mainstream movement.

10. (A) Achieving social equality and political rights for untouchable castes.
The Depressed Class Movement emerged as a vital struggle for social justice, led by figures such as B.R. Ambedkar. It focused on challenging the centuries-old discrimination and exclusion faced by the untouchable castes within the Hindu social hierarchy. The movement sought to secure fundamental political rights, equal access to public resources, and dignity for these marginalized groups. It emphasized that true freedom required the eradication of internal social inequalities.

11. (D) Revolutionaries: Mass Civil Disobedience
Revolutionaries in the Indian independence movement typically focused on clandestine activities, armed struggle, and individual acts of heroism to challenge the British administration. In contrast, mass civil disobedience was the signature method used by Mahatma Gandhi and the mainstream nationalist movement to mobilize the general public. The techniques of revolutionaries did not center on broad-based public defiance but rather on targeted strikes and creating an atmosphere of revolt.

12. (B) It provided leadership and ideological foundation, especially in the early phases.
The Western-educated middle class played a pivotal role in the inception of the Indian National Movement. By applying Western political concepts like liberty and democracy to the Indian context, they formulated a systematic critique of colonial rule. This group provided the intellectual and organizational leadership necessary to form early political associations. Their efforts established the ideological framework that sustained the movement through its various phases of development.

13. (C) A is true but R is false.
British economic policies fundamentally altered India's landscape, creating the material conditions for nationalist growth by impoverishing traditional sectors. However, these policies did not encourage the development of modern industries under Indian ownership. Instead, they prioritized British industrial interests, leading to the decline of indigenous crafts. While the emergence of a unified economic reality is factual, the idea that the British fostered a strong Indian capitalist class is historically incorrect.

14. (D) The ideology and politics of the Muslim League.
The creation of Pakistan was most directly rooted in the political trajectory of the Muslim League, especially after its adoption of the Two-Nation Theory. This ideology claimed that Hindus and Muslims were separate nations with distinct interests, necessitating a separate homeland. The League's mobilization of religious identity for political goals eventually led to the demand for partition. This development significantly shifted the course of the national movement.

15. (A) The rehabilitation of refugees and the violence of Partition.
Immediately following independence in 1947, India faced a catastrophic humanitarian crisis caused by the partition of the subcontinent. Massive communal violence broke out, resulting in the displacement of millions of people across the new borders. The government had to manage

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from their ancestral lands without adequate compensation or rehabilitation. This issue highlights the tension between achieving modern industrial growth and protecting the livelihoods and cultural heritage of indigenous groups. It remains a persistent challenge for equitable and sustainable development in contemporary India.

31. (C) A is true but R is false.
The Muslim League was established in 1906 with the stated goal of protecting the political rights and communal interests of Indian Muslims. However, the claim that the Indian National Congress was an exclusively Hindu organization is historically incorrect. From its inception, the Congress was a secular political platform that included members from all religious communities, including prominent Muslim leaders. Therefore, the assertion about the League's purpose is true, but the reason provided is factually false.

32. (B) B.R. Ambedkar
B.R. Ambedkar played a monumental role in the creation of the Indian Constitution as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He was responsible for synthesizing various proposals and ensuring that the final document reflected the ideals of justice, liberty, and equality. His legal expertise and commitment to social reform were instrumental in incorporating safeguards for marginalized communities. Because of his profound influence on its structure and content, he is widely regarded as the architect of the constitution.

33. (B) They advocated for passive resistance and boycott.
Assertive Nationalists, often referred to as Extremists, introduced radical methods to the freedom struggle. They rejected the moderate approach of petitions and advocated for more confrontational tactics like the boycott of foreign goods and the use of Swadeshi. By promoting passive resistance, they aimed to make colonial administration impossible. Their influence grew significantly after the partition of Bengal in 1905, as they sought to mobilize the masses for the goal of self-rule.

34. (A) a, b, and d only
Following independence, India adopted a mixed economy model that combined state-led planning with a private sector. This planning process was central to government policy for decades, aimed at achieving economic self-sufficiency. While heavy industrialization was a major focus, it was actually the Second Five-Year Plan that prioritized it, whereas the First Plan focused primarily on agriculture. Therefore, statements concerning the mixed economy, the planning process, and self-sufficiency are correct, but the first plan's focus is misidentified.

35. (C) The political mobilisation of people based on their religious identity.
Communal politics involves using religious identity as the primary basis for political organization and mobilization. In modern Indian history, this often meant viewing different religious communities as having conflicting political interests. This ideology was frequently encouraged by colonial policies like 'divide and rule', leading to social divisions and tensions. Ultimately, the growth of communalism played a decisive role in the political landscape, contributing significantly to the eventual partition of the subcontinent into two separate nations.

36. (D) Planning Commission
The Indian government institutionalized the planning process by establishing the Planning Commission in 1950. This body was responsible for formulating Five-Year Plans that outlined the nation's economic priorities and resource allocation. It played a central role in guiding development initiatives and fostering a state-led economic model for several decades. Through these plans, the commission aimed to achieve industrial growth, poverty reduction, and self-reliance, serving as the main architect of India's development strategy.

37. (C) Cause: Partition of Bengal; Effect: Launch of Swadeshi.
The decision by the British to partition Bengal in 1905 served as the direct catalyst for the launch of the Swadeshi movement. This administrative action was perceived as a deliberate attempt to weaken the nationalist spirit and divide the population on religious lines. In response, Indians organized a massive boycott of British goods and promoted indigenous alternatives. This cause-and-effect relationship transformed regional

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Privatisation is a key component of the economic reforms that began in 1991, signifying a move away from the state-controlled model. It involves the reduction of the government's role in the economy by selling off shares of public sector undertakings to private investors or the general public. This policy aims to improve industrial efficiency, encourage competition, and reduce the fiscal burden on the state. It represents a fundamental shift toward a more market-driven and private-led economic structure.

67. (D) The objective of creating a mass-based non-violent movement.
Revolutionaries in the Indian freedom struggle were defined by their belief in militant and radical methods rather than mass non-violence. They sought to inspire fear in the colonial administration through targeted assassinations and were often influenced by international revolutionary movements. Their strategy focused on individual heroic acts and small-group clandestine operations to challenge British rule. Consequently, the goal of building a mass-based non-violent movement was characteristic of the mainstream Congress under Gandhi, but not the ideology of the revolutionaries.

68. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Different leaders and organizations are associated with specific primary demands during the freedom struggle. Early Nationalists focused on the expansion of legislative councils to increase Indian representation. B.R. Ambedkar fought for separate electorates for the depressed classes to protect their political interests. The Muslim League eventually made the formation of Pakistan its central objective. Subhas Chandra Bose is directly linked to the Indian National Army. These associations highlight the diverse strategies used to challenge colonial rule.

69. (B) Legislative, Administrative, and Financial
In the Indian federal system, Centre-State relations concern how power is distributed across three main areas: the making of laws, the day-to-day governance, and the allocation of financial resources. The Constitution provides specific lists to define these jurisdictions, ensuring a balance between central authority and state autonomy. These relations are crucial for the functioning of democracy and have often been a subject of political debate. Proper coordination in these areas is essential for national unity and effective governance across diverse regions.

70. (B) The Partition of Bengal in 1905
The Swadeshi and Boycott movement was a direct reaction to the British government's decision to divide the province of Bengal. This administrative act was widely condemned as a 'divide and rule' tactic aimed at weakening the nationalist movement. In response, people organized to promote Indian-made goods and reject British imports as a form of protest. This movement marked a shift from moderate petitions to more assertive mass action, laying the groundwork for future phases of the independence struggle.

71. (C) The organisation of peasants and workers for their rights.
Left Wing Politics introduced a class-based perspective to the Indian national movement, emphasizing the needs of the rural and urban poor. Its proponents believed that true liberation from colonial rule must also involve the liberation of peasants and workers from economic exploitation. By organizing these groups into unions and associations, the Left sought to link the struggle for independence with the fight for social and economic equality. This approach aimed to build a socialist foundation for a future independent India.

72. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The creation of the Indian Constitution was a monumental democratic process involving rigorous debates within the Constituent Assembly to address the country's diverse needs. A landmark decision during this process was the adoption of universal adult franchise, which granted the right to vote to all citizens regardless of gender, caste, or wealth. This was a bold step for a newly independent nation, reflecting a deep commitment to equality and representative democracy. Both statements accurately describe key aspects of India's constitutional history.

73. (B) Propounded the 'drain theory' to explain the exploitation of India.
Early nationalist leaders provided a systematic critique of British colonial rule by focusing on its negative economic impact. They developed the 'drain theory', which argued that a significant

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45. (C) A is true but R is false.
B.R. Ambedkar was a central figure in the drafting of the Indian Constitution, serving as the head of the committee responsible for its final form. However, the reason provided is entirely incorrect. Far from opposing democracy, he was a staunch advocate for a parliamentary democratic system and worked to ensure it protected the rights of all citizens, especially the marginalized. His efforts were dedicated to building a republican framework, not advocating for a return to monarchical rule.

46. (D) The formation of a collective military security pact.
Panchsheel was based on five principles designed to promote international cooperation and peaceful coexistence without resorting to military force. These principles included mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations. Crucially, the doctrine was intended as an alternative to the cold war era military alliances. Therefore, the formation of a collective military security pact was fundamentally contrary to the spirit of Panchsheel, which prioritized diplomatic and peaceful relations over military blocks.

47. (A) Instrument of Accession signed by the Maharaja.
The integration of Kashmir into India was legally formalized through the signing of the Instrument of Accession by Maharaja Hari Singh in October 1947. This decision was precipitated by an invasion of the state by Pakistan-backed tribal militias, which forced the ruler to seek urgent military support from the Indian government. The signing of this document provided the legal basis for Indian troops to enter Kashmir and for the state to become an integral part of the Indian Union.

48. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Various political phases and ideologies in modern India are defined by distinct concepts. Early Nationalists are associated with constitutional reforms and petitions. Gandhian movements are characterized by the practice of Satyagraha or non-violent resistance. The period after 1991 is defined by the policy of economic Liberalisation. Left Wing Politics focuses on the concept of class struggle and the rights of workers. Matching these correctly illustrates the diverse ideological evolution of the Indian political and economic landscape.

49. (B) To achieve separate electorates and political representation to safeguard their interests.
The Depressed Class Movement, spearheaded by B.R. Ambedkar, focused on securing specific political safeguards for marginalized communities. A primary objective was to obtain separate electorates and guaranteed representation in legislative bodies to ensure their voices were heard. Leaders believed that without such constitutional protections, the interests of the depressed classes would be ignored by the dominant social groups. This strategy aimed to use political power as a means to achieve social dignity and equality within Indian society.

50. (A) The continuation of the 'steel frame' of the Indian Civil Service (ICS) with new nomenclature.
Upon gaining independence, India chose to maintain the administrative structure inherited from the British era. The elite Indian Civil Service was reorganized into the Indian Administrative Service, but it retained its essential hierarchical and professional character. This 'steel frame' provided the necessary stability and expertise to manage the transition to self-rule. By keeping this established system, the new government ensured that there was no administrative vacuum during a period of significant political and social upheaval.

51. (B) b and d only
The Indian National Army was composed largely of Indian soldiers who had been captured as prisoners of war by the Japanese during World War II. It sought support from the Axis powers to launch a military campaign against British rule in India. While Subhas Chandra Bose eventually led and expanded the organization, he was not its initial founder. Additionally, the primary slogan associated with Bose's leadership was 'Jai Hind' rather than 'Inquilab Zindabad'. Thus, statements about Axis help and prisoners are correct.

52. (A) The methods to be used to achieve political goals.
The primary ideological conflict within the Indian National Congress during the early 20th century centered on the tactics for challenging colonial

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resentment into a powerful national protest, marking a new phase in the independence struggle.

38. (B) Early Nationalists who sought constitutional reforms.
During its first two decades, the Indian National Congress was dominated by leaders known as the Early Nationalists or Moderates. Their ideology focused on achieving gradual administrative and constitutional reforms through peaceful and legal means. They believed in the British sense of justice and used methods like petitions, prayers, and public meetings to present their grievances. Their primary goal was to secure greater Indian representation in the government while maintaining a connection with the British Empire.

39. (A) 1, 3, 2, 4
The history of the Indian freedom struggle follows a distinct chronological path starting with the birth of the Congress in 1885. The Swadeshi Movement emerged next in 1905 as a reaction to the partition of Bengal. This was followed by the first major Gandhian mass movement, the Non-Cooperation Movement, in 1920. Finally, Subhas Chandra Bose took leadership of the Indian National Army during World War II in the 1940s. This sequence reflects the movement's evolution.

40. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The relationship between the central government and the states has been a constant theme in Indian politics, focusing on the distribution of legislative and financial powers. However, the Indian Constitution does not establish a completely unitary system. Instead, it creates a federal structure with a strong central bias, where states possess significant autonomy and specific powers over local matters. Therefore, while the first statement accurately describes political reality, the second misrepresents the constitutional framework as being purely unitary.

41. (C) It involved strengthening the public sector and expanding state control over industries.
The LPG reforms of 1991 marked a significant departure from India's earlier economic model by reducing state intervention. These reforms aimed to dismantle the 'license-permit raj' and encourage privatization by selling shares of public sector undertakings. By lowering trade barriers and attracting foreign investment, the policy sought to integrate the Indian economy with the global market. Therefore, the claim that these reforms involved strengthening the public sector is incorrect, as the focus was actually on deregulation and private growth.

42. (A) a, b, and e only
The rise of Indian nationalism was fueled by several key factors, including the destruction of the traditional economy and the emergence of a modern intelligentsia. The development of modern transport systems also helped unify the country and facilitate the spread of nationalist ideas. Conversely, the British educational policy focused on English rather than vernaculars, and the peasantry largely suffered under colonial rule rather than prospering. Thus, the statements regarding economic destruction, infrastructure, and the intelligentsia are the only correct factors.

43. (D) The peaceful and agreed-upon demarcation of the new border.
The partition of India was characterized by immense chaos and human suffering rather than a peaceful transition. It led to unprecedented communal violence and a massive, forced migration of millions of refugees across newly created borders. The division of administrative assets and the military also posed significant logistical challenges. The demarcation of the border was hurried and highly contentious, contributing to long-term tensions. Therefore, a peaceful and agreed-upon demarcation was notably absent during this turbulent period.

44. (B) Nationalists who believed in and practiced overthrowing the British through armed struggle.
Revolutionaries formed a distinct branch of the freedom struggle, rejecting the non-violent and constitutional methods of the mainstream movement. They believed that British colonial rule could only be ended through armed resistance and militant action. Inspired by global revolutionary trends, they organized secret societies and carried out targeted attacks against officials. Their goal was to inspire the masses and create a sense of crisis for the colonial administration, viewing individual heroism as a necessary path to liberation.

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The demand for a separate Muslim state, which later became Pakistan, was formally and decisively articulated in the Lahore Resolution of 1940. Adopted by the Muslim League, this resolution claimed that Muslims were a separate nation and that areas with Muslim majorities should be grouped into independent states. This was a critical turning point in Indian politics, as it moved the League toward the goal of partition. The resolution laid the political foundation for the eventual creation of Pakistan.

60. (A) 4, 1, 2, 3
The timeline of major post-independence events begins with the integration of princely states, specifically the police action in Hyderabad in 1948. This was followed by the linguistic reorganization of states, which culminated in the mid-1950s. The national emergency was proclaimed much later, in 1975, lasting until 1977. Finally, the initiation of the LPG economic reforms occurred in 1991. This sequence reflects the transition from early territorial consolidation to political crises and eventual economic transformation.

61. (C) The constitution was adopted on 26th January 1950.
The Indian Constitution was actually adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949, not in 1950. January 26, 1950, marks the date when the constitution formally came into effect, which is why it is celebrated as Republic Day. All other statements regarding the assembly's responsibility, Dr. Ambedkar's role as chairman of the drafting committee, and the federal structure with a strong central government are factually correct descriptions of the constitution-making process and its outcome.

62. (B) Individual, social, and economic self-rule extending from the person to the nation.
In the Gandhian framework, Swaraj was a comprehensive concept that went beyond mere political independence from the British. It emphasized the importance of self-governance at all levels, beginning with the individual's control over their own life and morals. This vision included social reform, economic self-reliance through village industries, and the achievement of a non-violent society. Swaraj was thus a holistic ideal that aimed to transform the individual and the community along with the nation's political structure.

63. (C) A is true but R is false.
The linguistic reorganization of states was indeed a pivotal step in consolidating the Indian nation by aligning administrative boundaries with cultural identities. However, the reason provided is incorrect. While some leaders initially feared that linguistic states might lead to national fragmentation, the process actually helped to stabilize the federation. By accommodating regional aspirations, linguistic reorganization reduced secessionist pressures and strengthened national unity. Thus, the belief mentioned in the reason was a fear that was largely proven wrong by historical outcomes.

64. (D) The state had a Hindu-majority population but a Muslim ruler who wished to accede to Pakistan.
The integration of Junagadh was problematic because of a mismatch between the ruler's wishes and the population's preference. The Nawab, a Muslim, declared accession to Pakistan despite the state having a majority Hindu population and being geographically surrounded by Indian territory. This led to local protests and the eventual intervention by the Indian government. The crisis was ultimately resolved by a plebiscite, where the people overwhelmingly voted to join the Indian Union, overturning the ruler's initial decision.

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65. (B) b, c, and e only
Women from diverse backgrounds participated actively in the freedom struggle, challenging traditional patriarchal norms and expanding their roles in the public sphere. They were particularly mobilized during Gandhi's civil disobedience campaigns, where they joined processions and picketed shops. However, it is incorrect to say their participation was limited to the upper classes or that they achieved immediate social equality after the movement. While their roles were transformative, achieving full social and political status remained a long-term struggle beyond independence.

66. (B) The transfer of ownership of state-owned enterprises to the private sector.

period when constitutional rights were suspended across the country. Invoked by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister, it led to the curtailment of civil liberties, press censorship, and the arrest of political opponents. This era is viewed as a significant challenge to Indian democracy, highlighting the tensions between executive power and the protection of fundamental citizen freedoms.

24. (A) Redrawing state boundaries primarily on the basis of language.
The linguistic reorganization of states was a major political process in the 1950s aimed at aligning administrative boundaries with the linguistic demographics of different regions. This reform responded to popular demands for states that reflected local languages and cultures. By creating linguistically homogeneous states, the government hoped to enhance democratic participation and administrative efficiency. While it initially raised concerns about national unity, it ultimately helped consolidate India's federal structure by accommodating regional identities.

25. (C) The economic reforms initiated around 1991.
The policies of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation represent a fundamental shift in India's economic strategy that began in 1991. These reforms aimed to reduce government control, encourage private investment, and integrate India more deeply into the global market. This transition moved the country away from the earlier model of a state-directed, closed economy toward a more market-oriented system. The change was prompted by a severe balance of payments crisis and changing global economic trends.

26. (A) Women participated in a wide range of activities, from boycotts to revolutionary acts.
Women played a multifaceted and active role in the Indian National Movement, transcending social barriers to contribute significantly. They participated in mass processions, organized the picketing of shops selling foreign goods, and even engaged in clandestine revolutionary activities. Their involvement was not restricted to any single social class or supportive role. This mass participation was encouraged by leaders like Gandhi and challenged traditional patriarchal norms, marking a significant step toward women's empowerment.

27. (D) Complete independence and self-rule, free from foreign control.
While the term Swaraj was used by many nationalists, the Assertive Nationalists gave it a more radical meaning. For them, it represented the ultimate goal of Purna Swaraj, or complete political independence, rather than mere administrative reforms within the British Empire. They believed that self-rule was a birthright and could only be achieved through mass mobilization and self-sacrifice. This interpretation helped galvanize the movement toward a more defiant stance against colonial authority.

28. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
The integration of princely states followed different paths depending on local circumstances. Junagadh's status was resolved through a plebiscite after the ruler fled to Pakistan. Hyderabad was integrated using military force during Operation Polo to end the Nizam's resistance. Kashmir acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession following a tribal invasion. Most other states joined peacefully through persuasion and negotiation before independence, resulting in the successful territorial consolidation of the new nation.

29. (C) The rights of peasants and workers, and a socialist vision for India.
Left Wing Politics emerged as a significant force within the national movement, advocating for a socialist transformation of Indian society. This ideology focused on the mobilization of peasants and industrial workers to demand economic justice and the end of landlordism. Leaders in this stream believed that political independence must be accompanied by a redistribution of wealth and social equality. Their perspective added a critical social and economic dimension to the struggle against British imperialism.

30. (D) The goals of rapid industrialisation and the rights of indigenous communities.
Post-independence development projects, such as large dams and mining operations, have often created a conflict between national economic goals and the rights of local populations. Tribal communities frequently face forced displacement

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portion of India's wealth and resources was being siphoned off to Britain without any equivalent return. This analysis helped educate the Indian public about the nature of colonial exploitation and provided a material basis for the growth of national consciousness. It shifted the political focus from administrative reforms to economic independence.

74. (C) The culmination of a process of political awakening and formation of regional associations.
The establishment of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was not a sudden event but the result of several decades of growing political awareness. Throughout the 19th century, various regional associations had been formed by the Western-educated elite to discuss local grievances and administrative reforms. The creation of the Congress provided a unified, all-India platform to bring these regional efforts together. It marked the transition of the nationalist movement from localized concerns to a organized, national political struggle.

75. (D) All a, b, c, and d
India's post-independence economic history is defined by several key policy choices and structural changes. This includes the adoption of a mixed economy model and the institutionalization of the planning process through Five-Year Plans. The nationalization of major banks was another significant step toward increasing state control over financial resources. Eventually, the 1991 LPG reforms introduced a major shift toward market-driven growth. All these elements are correctly associated with the evolution of the nation's economic and planning policies over the decades.

76. (B) Fundamental rights were curtailed and press censorship was imposed.
The national emergency declared between 1975 and 1977 was characterized by a severe restriction on democratic freedoms. During this period, the government used extraordinary powers to suspend the fundamental rights of citizens, making them unenforceable in courts. Strict censorship was imposed on the media, and thousands of political activists were arrested without trial. This era is remembered as a significant test for the resilience of the Indian democratic system and the protection of civil liberties under constitutional law.

77. (A) The invasion by tribal raiders supported by Pakistan.
The integration of the princely state of Kashmir became a major crisis due to an external military threat. Shortly after independence, tribal militias, actively supported by the Pakistani military, invaded the state to force its accession to Pakistan. This invasion led Maharaja Hari Singh to seek immediate military help from India, which was conditional on his signing the Instrument of Accession. This conflict initiated the long-standing dispute over the region and significantly complicated the process of state integration.

78. (B) Complete self-government and freedom from British control.
Assertive Nationalists redefined the goal of the freedom struggle by demanding Purna Swaraj, or complete independence, as a matter of right. This was a significant departure from the Early Nationalists, who primarily sought administrative reforms and greater representation within the framework of British rule. The Assertives believed that Indians should have full control over their own governance without any foreign interference. Their radical vision helped shift the movement's focus from seeking concessions to achieving total liberation from colonial authority.

79. (B) The initial phase of the Indian National Congress (1885-1905).
The early period of the Indian National Congress was almost entirely led and shaped by the Western-educated middle class. This group, consisting of lawyers, journalists, and professionals, used their knowledge of modern political ideas to articulate Indian grievances against colonial rule. They provided the intellectual foundation and organizational structure that the movement needed to become a national force. While later phases saw greater mass participation, the middle class remained the essential pioneer in forming the nationalist agenda.

80. (B) The British policy of 'divide and rule', including the introduction of separate electorates.
The rise of communal politics in India was significantly fueled by colonial administrative strategies designed to weaken the nationalist

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remained unified. The government had to balance the demand for states that reflected local languages and cultures with the need to prevent the growth of narrow regionalism or separatist movements. The goal was to create a more rational administrative structure that enhanced democratic participation without undermining the foundational integrity of the Indian nation. Successful reorganization was seen as essential for long-term political stability.

109. (A) The forced removal of people, often tribals, from their lands for large development projects.
In the context of development debates, 'displacement' refers to the compulsory uprooting of communities from their traditional homes and lands to make way for infrastructure projects like dams or mines. This process disproportionately affects tribal groups, whose lives and cultures are deeply tied to their ancestral territories. Displacement often results in the loss of livelihoods, social disintegration, and poverty, especially when rehabilitation is inadequate. It highlights the ethical and social challenges associated with pursuing rapid industrialization in a diverse and populous nation.

110. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Post-independence education policies have consistently aimed at the universalization of elementary education to eradicate illiteracy and promote social equality. These initiatives were designed to provide a foundational education to all children across the nation. However, it is incorrect to say that these policies abandoned science and technology. On the contrary, modernizing the curriculum to include robust scientific and technical education was a priority to meet the needs of a developing industrial nation. Therefore, while statement I is accurate, statement II is false.

111. (D) The Extremists
The term 'Assertive Nationalists' is another name for the group of leaders often called the Extremists, who gained prominence within the Indian National Congress in the early 1900s. They were called Extremists because their methods—such as boycotts, Swadeshi, and passive resistance—were seen as radical compared to the moderate approach of the Early Nationalists. This group, led by figures like Tilak, Pal, and Lajpat Rai, sought to move beyond petitions and demand self-rule as a fundamental birthright.

112. (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Major themes in modern Indian history are defined by specific events and policies. The 1975 Emergency is characterized by the suspension of fundamental rights. The integration of Junagadh involved a popular plebiscite to determine its political future. Panchsheel remains a defining doctrine of India's foreign policy, emphasizing peaceful co-existence. The planning process is best represented by the formulation of Five-Year Plans to guide economic development. Matching these correctly provides a concise overview of significant political and economic milestones in post-independence India.

113. (C) It emerged from the new, modern, educated Indian middle class.
The social foundation of Indian nationalism was primarily established by the Western-educated middle class. This group, including professionals such as lawyers, teachers, and journalists, used their exposure to modern political ideas like liberty and democracy to critique British rule. They formed the early political associations and provided the intellectual leadership needed to articulate national grievances. While other classes joined later, it was this urban intelligentsia that first synthesized a coherent nationalist ideology and organized the movement on a national scale.

114. (B) Believing in the providential nature of British rule and constitutional reforms.
Early Nationalists, also known as Moderates, generally believed that British rule had brought beneficial modern influences to India and that the British would eventually grant reforms if approached through logical appeals. Their ideology focused on achieving gradual administrative and constitutional changes within the legal framework of the colonial government. They used methods like petitions, resolutions, and public speeches to express their demands. Their primary aim was to secure greater Indian representation while maintaining an overall connection with the British Empire.

115. (C) A is true but R is false.
The partition of India was indeed a period of extreme trauma, marked by massive communal

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beneficial and that the British would eventually grant reforms once they were convinced of their fairness. They operated within the legal framework, using constitutional methods like petitions and public speeches to express their demands. They did not seek to overthrow the government but rather to improve it through cooperation and dialogue. Their trust in the British sense of justice guided their political strategy during the movement's early years.

88. (A) The Nizam's declaration of an independent status for Hyderabad.
Operation Polo was launched because the Nizam of Hyderabad refused to join the Indian Union, insisting on maintaining the state as an independent sovereign entity. This stance created a major security concern for India, as the state was located in the heart of the subcontinent. Furthermore, the activities of the Razakars were causing widespread internal instability. The Indian government eventually decided that military intervention was necessary to protect the people and ensure the country's territorial and political integrity.

89. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Various terms and policies are central to different periods of Indian history. Swadeshi is associated with self-reliance and the boycott of foreign goods during the early nationalist phase. Panchsheel defines the foreign policy of peaceful co-existence established in the 1950s. Liberalisation refers to the economic reforms of 1991 aimed at a market-driven economy. The Depressed Class Movement is focused on achieving social justice and political representation for marginalized groups. Matching these correctly provides a clear overview of India's ideological milestones.

90. (A) Adoption of the Two-Nation Theory.
The political idea of Pakistan was firmly established when the Muslim League adopted the Two-Nation Theory, which argued that Hindus and Muslims were separate nations. This ideology suggested that Muslims had distinct political and cultural interests that could only be protected in a separate homeland. By mobilizing around this concept, the League moved from demanding safeguards to demanding a separate state. This theory became the ideological cornerstone for the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

91. (A) a, c, and d only
Post-independence India faced several daunting tasks, including the integration of over 500 princely states and the rehabilitation of millions of refugees fleeing communal violence. The creation of a new constitution for such a diverse nation was another monumental challenge. However, the linguistic reorganization of states was often a contentious and conflicted process, and the refugee problem was a massive, enduring crisis. Therefore, the statements about the integration of states, economic disruption, and constitution-making are the only factually correct ones in this context.

92. (B) A political stream that included communists and socialists focusing on workers' and peasants' issues.
Left Wing politics became a significant influence in the Indian national movement by introducing a focus on economic justice and class struggle. This stream, composed of various socialist and communist groups, sought to mobilize the industrial working class and the peasantry to fight for their rights against landlords and capitalists. They believed that political independence from Britain must also lead to a radical social and economic transformation of India. Their efforts broadened the movement's social base and agenda.

93. (D) Reliance on secret societies and assassination.
Gandhian mass movements were defined by their commitment to public, non-violent action and the mobilization of ordinary people through methods like non-cooperation and civil disobedience. These movements emphasized truth and moral pressure to challenge the colonial government. In contrast, the use of secret societies and targeted assassinations was characteristic of the revolutionary movement, which operated through clandestine means. Gandhi explicitly rejected such violent tactics, believing that they were both morally wrong and ineffective for achieving lasting independence for the entire nation.

94. (B) A permanent, neutral, and professional executive.

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Early nationalist leaders formulated a powerful critique of British rule by focusing on its negative economic consequences. They argued that colonial policies led to the systematic drain of India's wealth and the destruction of its traditional handicraft industries, a process known as de-industrialisation. This economic analysis demonstrated how India's resources were used to benefit the British economy while leaving the Indian population in poverty. This realization provided a crucial material basis for the growth of national consciousness and a demand for self-rule.

123. (B) Provided the first all-India platform for organised political activity.
The founding of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was a landmark event because it established the first permanent, national-level political organization in the country. Before this, political activity was largely regional and fragmented. The Congress provided a unified forum where educated Indians from different parts of the country could meet to discuss grievances and present collective demands to the British government. This organizational unity was essential for transforming localized discontent into a coherent and powerful national movement for reform and eventual independence.

124. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Swadeshi movement was a multifaceted protest that prioritized the use of Indian-made goods while calling for a total boycott of foreign institutions and merchandise. This strategy aimed to hit British economic interests while fostering national self-reliance. For Assertive Nationalists, however, the movement was not just about economic goals; they viewed it as a political struggle for Swaraj, or complete self-rule. They believed that by making colonial administration impossible, they could achieve total independence. Both statements accurately reflect these key aspects of the movement.

125. (A) Its provision for amendment to adapt to changing times.
The Indian Constitution is often described as a 'living document' because it is not a static or unchangeable set of rules. It includes specific provisions for amendments, allowing the legal and political framework to evolve in response to new challenges and changing social needs. This flexibility ensures that the constitution remains relevant and effective over time. By balancing stability with the capacity for change, the document provides a durable foundation for governance while accommodating the dynamic nature of a modern democratic society.

126. (C) Complete political independence from any foreign rule.
For Bal Gangadhar Tilak and other Assertive Nationalists, the concept of Swaraj went beyond simple administrative reforms or representation within the colonial system. They interpreted it as Purna Swaraj, meaning absolute political independence and total self-rule for India. Tilak famously declared, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it," emphasizing that freedom was an inherent right that could not be compromised. This radical stance sought to completely end British control, marking a shift toward more militant and uncompromising nationalist goals.

127. (B) Passing resolutions and submitting petitions
Early Nationalists, or Moderates, relied on a strategy of constitutional agitation to achieve their political goals. Their primary methods involved organizing public meetings, passing formal resolutions, and submitting detailed petitions to the British government and Parliament. They believed that by presenting a well-reasoned and logical case for reform, they could convince the British to grant concessions. These peaceful and legal methods reflected their faith in British justice and their desire to achieve gradual change without resorting to mass agitation or violence.

128. (A) a and c only
Post-independence India implemented several key policies to consolidate the nation, including the New Education Policy to modernize schooling and the linguistic reorganization of states to redraw boundaries based on language. These were pivotal for national integration and development. However, the planning process was not abandoned; rather, it was institutionalized through Five-Year Plans. Additionally, Panchsheel was primarily a doctrine of foreign policy, not domestic policy. Therefore, only the statements concerning education and linguistic reorganization are correct in this context.

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While early nationalist efforts were largely confined to the educated urban elite, the movement underwent a dramatic transformation during the Gandhian era. Mahatma Gandhi's unique methods and inclusive ideology successfully brought millions of ordinary Indians into the struggle for independence. By addressing the concerns of peasants, industrial workers, and women, he created a truly mass-based movement. This broadening of the social base was essential for challenging the moral and political authority of British colonial rule on a national scale.

102. (A) The guarantee of Fundamental Rights to all citizens.
The makers of the Indian Constitution, including B.R. Ambedkar, envisioned a nation where individual liberty and equality were legally protected. This led to the inclusion of a comprehensive chapter on Fundamental Rights, which are enforceable by the courts. These rights ensure that every citizen, regardless of their background, is protected against arbitrary state action and discrimination. This feature is a cornerstone of Indian democracy, reflecting the founders' commitment to social justice and the protection of the dignity of every individual in a diverse society.

103. (D) All a, b, c, and d
The Indian national movement was characterized by a diversity of ideologies and methods that evolved over time. Early Nationalists relied on constitutional methods like petitions, while Assertive Nationalists introduced mass action through Swadeshi and boycotts. Concurrently, Revolutionaries believed that only armed struggle could end colonial rule. Later, Mahatma Gandhi unified the movement through the strategy of non-violent Satyagraha. All these statements correctly identify the characteristic approaches of the major groups that contributed to the struggle for independence.

104. (C) Mohan Singh
The Indian National Army was initially conceived and formed by Captain Mohan Singh, an officer of the British Indian Army who had been captured by the Japanese during the Malayan campaign. He saw the opportunity to organize Indian prisoners of war into a military force to fight for India's independence with Japanese assistance. Although Subhas Chandra Bose later revitalized and led the INA to its greatest prominence, it was Mohan Singh who played the foundational role in its initial establishment.

105. (B) The propagation of the "Two-Nation Theory".
The Muslim League used the "Two-Nation Theory" as its primary political tool to demand a separate state for Muslims. This theory argued that Hindus and Muslims were not just religious groups but two distinct nations with irreconcilable interests. By propagating this idea, the League successfully mobilized a large section of the Muslim population around the demand for partition. This ideology directly challenged the vision of a single, unified independent India and became the driving force behind the eventual creation of Pakistan.

106. (B) A swift 'police action' to end the rule of the Nizam and the terror of the Razakars.
The integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union was achieved through a military operation known as 'Operation Polo' in 1948. This 'police action' was launched by the Indian government after the Nizam refused to join the Union and allowed the Razakar militia to unleash violence against the local population. The operation was swift and effective, leading to the surrender of the Nizam's forces and the formal accession of the state to India, ensuring territorial and political unity.

107. (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
The chronological sequence of these significant events begins with the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885. This was followed by the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, which arose as a protest against the partition of Bengal. Decades later, the Muslim League passed the Lahore Resolution in 1940, formally demanding a separate state. Finally, the process culminated in the Partition of India in 1947. This timeline illustrates the long-term political evolution from early organization to final division.

108. (A) Redraw boundaries without fueling secessionist tendencies and while maintaining national unity.
The primary challenge in reorganizing states along linguistic lines was to satisfy regional aspirations while ensuring that the country

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movement. By emphasizing religious differences and introducing separate electorates, the British encouraged religious communities to organize as separate political blocks with conflicting interests. This 'divide and rule' policy institutionalized religious identity in the political system, leading to increased distrust and communal tensions. These divisions ultimately hindered national unity and became a major factor in the eventual partition of the country.

81. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Gandhian mass movements were historically unique because they successfully mobilized millions of people using the principles of non-violence and truth-force. By applying Satyagraha as a method of peaceful defiance, Gandhi transformed the struggle into a popular cause that included peasants, workers, and women. This strategy challenged the colonial government's moral authority rather than just its military power. The shared commitment to non-violent resistance provided the movement with its massive scale and distinctive character, making the reason an accurate explanation.

82. (B) Integrating the Indian economy with the global economy.
Globalisation, as a part of the economic reforms initiated in 1991, refers to the process of opening up India's markets to the rest of the world. This policy aimed to promote the free flow of goods, services, and capital across international borders. By reducing import duties and encouraging foreign direct investment, the government sought to make the Indian economy more competitive and interconnected globally. It represented a major move away from earlier policies of economic isolation and self-reliance.

83. (B) The integration of French and Portuguese colonial enclaves.
The partition of India in 1947 brought immediate and severe challenges, including massive refugee rehabilitation, widespread communal violence, and the complex division of administrative assets. However, the integration of French and Portuguese territories, like Pondicherry and Goa, was not an immediate challenge of partition itself. These enclaves remained under foreign control for several years after 1947 and were addressed through separate diplomatic and military actions much later. Thus, they do not fall under the direct consequences of the partition.

84. (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
The evolution of nationalist ideology in India began with the Early Nationalists who focused on constitutional reforms. This was followed by the rise of Assertive Nationalists who advocated for radical methods like boycotts. Concurrent with these developments, the Revolutionary movement emerged, favoring armed struggle and militant action. Finally, the Gandhian era transformed the struggle into a massive non-violent movement involving all sections of society. This sequence correctly reflects the chronological shift in the predominant methods used to fight colonial rule.

85. (C) It demonstrated a growing political consciousness and challenged traditional roles.
The active participation of women was a transformative aspect of the Indian freedom struggle, signaling a major shift in social dynamics. By joining mass protests, picketing shops, and even participating in revolutionary acts, women broke out of their traditional domestic roles and entered the public political sphere. Their involvement was not merely symbolic but reflected a genuine political awakening. This mass mobilization, encouraged by leaders like Gandhi, laid the groundwork for future movements for women's equality in independent India.

86. (B) A democratic, secular, and republican polity.
The making of the Indian Constitution was guided by a vision to establish a modern nation based on universal values of justice and equality. The Constituent Assembly worked to ensure that India would be a secular state with no official religion, a republic where the head of state is elected, and a democracy where power lies with the people. These principles were intended to unify a diverse population and provide a stable framework for governance, reflecting a commitment to inclusive progress.

87. (B) They had profound faith in the British Parliament and sense of justice.
Early Nationalists, or Moderates, were defined by their belief that British rule was generally

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violence and the displacement of millions of people. It is correctly identified as one of the largest and most chaotic human migrations in history. However, the claim that the process was meticulously planned and peaceful is entirely false. In reality, the partition was hurried and accompanied by a breakdown of law and order, leading to widespread suffering and loss of life across the new borders.

116. (B) Social dignity, equality, and separate political representation.
Under the leadership of B.R. Ambedkar, the Depressed Class Movement fought to dismantle the social and political exclusion faced by marginalized castes. The movement emphasized that political independence from the British would be incomplete without achieving social equality and dignity within Indian society. Its primary goals included securing separate electorates and guaranteed representation in legislative bodies to protect the interests of these communities. It sought to use legal and constitutional means to challenge the traditional caste hierarchy and ensure justice for all.

117. (A) a, b, and d only
The partition of India was a direct result of rising communal politics, with the Muslim League aggressively demanding a separate state for Muslims. This process led to catastrophic displacement and a massive refugee crisis. However, the process was far from peaceful, and the Indian National Congress did not support the idea from the beginning, only accepting it as a last resort to avoid further violence. Therefore, the statements about communalism, the Muslim League's role, and displacement are correct, while the others are historically inaccurate.

118. (B) Reducing government controls and promoting a market-oriented economy.
The policy of Liberalisation, introduced in 1991, represented a major shift away from the restrictive 'license-permit raj'. It aimed to stimulate economic growth by reducing government regulations and making it easier for private businesses to operate. By opening up sectors previously reserved for the state and simplifying trade rules, the government sought to create a more competitive and market-driven economic environment. This reform was intended to modernize the economy and improve its efficiency by encouraging private enterprise and initiative.

119. (B) The central role of non-violence in Gandhian strategy.
While both Gandhian mass movements and revolutionaries sought to end British colonial rule, they differed fundamentally in their chosen methods. Gandhi's strategy was strictly based on the principle of non-violence, or Ahimsa, using peaceful defiance like Satyagraha to exert moral pressure on the government. In contrast, revolutionaries believed that armed struggle and militant action were necessary to achieve liberation. This commitment to non-violence was the defining characteristic of the Gandhian approach, distinguishing it from all other radical or militant nationalist ideologies.

120. (C) The States have the power to secede from the Indian Union if they wish.
India's federal structure is based on a distribution of powers between the central and state governments, but it does not permit the right to secession. The Constitution was designed to maintain national integrity, and the Indian Union is considered indissoluble. While the division of legislative and financial powers often leads to political debates, the supremacy of the Union in matters of national unity is clearly established. Therefore, any claim that states have the legal power to secede from the country is factually and constitutionally incorrect.

121. (C) Organising the Indian National Army to fight the British.
Subhas Chandra Bose is primarily remembered for his militant leadership and for organizing the Indian National Army (INA) during World War II. He sought to achieve independence through armed struggle, believing that external military force combined with internal resistance would overthrow British rule. His slogan 'Give me blood and I will give you freedom' encapsulated this approach. By establishing the INA with help from the Axis powers, he provided a powerful, radical alternative to the non-violent methods of the mainstream movement.

122. (B) Impoverishing India through the drain of wealth and de-industrialisation.

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The Indian bureaucratic system post-1947 was designed to be a permanent and professional body of civil servants who serve regardless of which political party is in power. This principle of neutrality ensures that administrative expertise remains consistent and that policy implementation is handled objectively. Based on merit-based recruitment through competitive exams, this structure provides the stability necessary for governance in a diverse democracy. It is intended to function as a professional executive arm that upholds the constitution and the rule of law.

95. (B) The suspension of elections and the extension of the term of the Lok Sabha.
The proclamation of Emergency in 1975 led to several significant political changes that altered the normal functioning of Indian democracy. One direct consequence was the postponement of general elections and the legislative extension of the term of the existing Lok Sabha. This allowed the government to continue in power without seeking a fresh mandate from the people. Such actions, alongside the suspension of fundamental rights, centralized power in the executive and significantly impacted the country's political and legal landscape.

96. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Assertive Nationalists, often called Extremists, were highly critical of the moderate approach, dismissively labeling their constitutional methods as 'political mendicancy'. They believed that relying on petitions and prayers would never convince the British to grant freedom. Instead, they advocated for more militant tactics and mass mobilization to achieve their goal. Their ultimate objective was the attainment of Swaraj, which they interpreted as complete self-rule. Both statements accurately reflect the ideology and aims of this influential group within the national movement.

97. (A) National development projects and the land and livelihood rights of tribal communities.
Tribal issues in post-independence India are frequently rooted in the tension between national industrial goals and the rights of indigenous people. Large projects such as dams, mines, and industrial plants are often situated on lands inhabited by tribal communities for generations. This leads to forced displacement and the loss of ancestral livelihoods and cultural identity. The conflict centers on whether national development should take precedence over the fundamental rights and welfare of these marginalized groups, who often do not benefit from such projects.

98. (C) A is true but R is false.
The period from 1885 to 1905 is correctly identified as the phase of the Early Nationalists within the Indian National Congress. However, these leaders did not advocate for mass civil disobedience or immediate freedom. Instead, they focused on seeking gradual reforms through constitutional methods like petitions and resolutions. They generally maintained faith in British justice and sought greater Indian representation within the colonial administration. Mass movements only became a central feature of the Congress much later, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

99. (C) Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act, 1947.
The transition toward independence and the partition of the subcontinent was finalized through the Mountbatten Plan and the subsequent Indian Independence Act of 1947. These documents provided the legal and political framework for the transfer of power from the British Crown to the two new dominions of India and Pakistan. This final step followed years of intense negotiation and rising communal tensions, marking the end of colonial rule and the division of the country into two separate sovereign nations.

100. (A) Promote the free flow of trade, capital, and technology across borders.
The policy of Globalisation, introduced as part of the 1991 economic reforms, was designed to integrate India into the global marketplace. It involved reducing trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, and making it easier for foreign companies to invest in India. By encouraging the exchange of capital and technology, the policy aimed to modernize the Indian economy and make it more competitive. This represented a fundamental shift away from the earlier model of a closed, state-protected domestic market.

101. (D) Gandhian phase, which saw the mobilisation of peasants, workers, and women.

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129. (C) Socialism and anti-imperialism.
Left Wing Politics within the Indian national movement was defined by its commitment to both ending colonial rule and transforming society along socialist lines. Proponents of this ideology believed that anti-imperialism must be linked to a struggle against economic exploitation by landlords and capitalists. They advocated for the rights of peasants and workers, seeking a future independent India where wealth was more equitably distributed. This socialist vision added a radical socio-economic dimension to the struggle, aiming for more than just a change in political leadership.

130. (B) Dynamics of Indian politics involving the use of constitutional provisions for political ends.
The declaration of National Emergency in 1975 serves as a significant example of how constitutional provisions can be invoked by the executive to concentrate power. By using 'internal disturbance' as a justification, the government was able to suspend democratic processes and curtail civil liberties. This event highlights the complex dynamics of Indian politics, where the boundaries of executive authority and the protection of constitutional rights can come into conflict. It remains a key case study in the study of institutional strength and political maneuvering.

131. (D) The sudden and peaceful integration of all princely states.
The partition of India in 1947 was accompanied by severe challenges, including the complex division of the military and national assets, catastrophic communal violence, and a massive refugee crisis. However, the integration of princely states was not a sudden or uniformly peaceful process. Many states, such as Hyderabad, Junagadh, and Kashmir, posed significant political and military difficulties that took time and effort to resolve. Therefore, the idea that all states integrated smoothly and peacefully is factually incorrect given the historical record of this period.

132. (C) A is true but R is false.
The integration of over 500 princely states into the Indian Union was indeed a formidable challenge that required immense political skill and effort, particularly by Sardar Patel. However, the reason provided is incorrect. Not all states joined willingly or immediately; some rulers harbored ambitions of independence or had conflicting interests. The process involved extensive persuasion, diplomatic maneuvering, and in some cases, military or police action. Therefore, while the assertion about the challenge is true, the claim that accession was immediate and voluntary for all is false.

133. (B) Uphold the rule of law and maintain control over the colony.
The bureaucratic system inherited from the British was originally designed to serve the needs of a colonial empire. Its primary functions were to ensure administrative stability, collect revenue, and maintain strict control over the Indian population to prevent dissent. It focused on upholding the authority of the colonial state rather than promoting democratic participation or social welfare. After independence, India retained this professional and hierarchical structure, but had to reorient its goals toward serving a democratic and developmental agenda for a free nation.

134. (D) Their social and political rights through constitutional means like reservations.
B.R. Ambedkar's advocacy for the Depressed Classes was centered on using legal and political structures to achieve social justice. He argued that marginalized communities needed specific constitutional safeguards, such as reserved seats in legislatures and education, to overcome centuries of systemic discrimination. His goal was to empower these groups to become equal participants in the democratic process. By focusing on constitutional rights, he sought to transform the social order and ensure that the dignity of the individual was protected by the law of the land.

135. (C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
The Indian independence movement evolved through several distinct phases, each defined by characteristic methods. Early Nationalists relied on constitutional agitation and dialogue. Assertive Nationalists moved toward passive resistance and boycotts to challenge the British more directly. The Gandhian era transformed the movement into a mass struggle based on Satyagraha and non-cooperation. Concurrently, the Revolutionary movement favored individual heroism and militant struggle. Matching these

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correctly provides a clear timeline of the strategic shifts that eventually led to India's liberation from colonial rule.

136. (C) Brought a new level of mass mobilization and legitimacy to the struggle.
The massive participation of women during the Gandhian phase of the national movement was a watershed moment in Indian history. By joining processions, picketing, and facing imprisonment, women transformed the struggle from a political debate among elites into a truly representative mass movement. Their involvement demonstrated the depth of nationalist sentiment and gave the cause greater moral authority and legitimacy both domestically and internationally. This mass mobilization also challenged traditional gender roles, laying the foundation for future social changes regarding women's status in Indian society.

137. (A) The rise of communal politics and the Two-Nation theory of the Muslim League.
The creation of Pakistan was the direct result of a political process driven by the mobilization of religious identity. The Muslim League's adoption of the Two-Nation Theory argued that Hindus and Muslims were separate nations with distinct interests, eventually leading to the demand for a separate homeland. This rising communal sentiment, encouraged by colonial policies, created deep political divisions that could not be resolved within a single unified state. Thus, the genesis of Pakistan is fundamentally rooted in these communal and ideological developments.

138. (A) A state-controlled, centrally planned economy.
For several decades after independence, India followed an economic model that emphasized state leadership and central planning through Five-Year Plans. The government controlled key industries and strictly regulated the private sector through the 'license-permit raj'. The 1991 LPG reforms represented a fundamental departure from this approach, introducing greater market orientation and reducing government intervention. This shift aimed to improve industrial efficiency and integrate India into the global economy, moving away from the earlier model of state-directed and inward-looking development.

139. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
In post-independence India, tribal communities have frequently faced displacement from their ancestral lands due to large-scale infrastructure and mining projects. These development initiatives often conflict with the traditional rights and livelihoods of indigenous groups. Therefore, statement I correctly identifies a persistent problem. However, statement II is false because the integration of tribal rights with industrial growth has been far from successful. Many such projects have led to social and economic marginalization for tribal populations, resulting in ongoing conflicts and challenges for equitable development.

140. (C) An elite organisation of educated Indians practicing constitutional agitation.
From its founding in 1885 until 1905, the Indian National Congress was primarily composed of the Western-educated urban elite, including lawyers and other professionals. Their political approach was defined by constitutional agitation, which involved using legal means like petitions and public speeches to demand administrative reforms. During this phase, the Congress did not seek to organize the masses or launch radical movements. Instead, it functioned as an elite forum for articulating the grievances of educated Indians while maintaining faith in the fairness of the British political system.

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141. (B) Development, Displacement and Tribal Issues
The situation where a dam project submerges tribal villages is a classic example of the conflict between national development goals and the rights of local indigenous populations. This issue centers on how the state's pursuit of industrial progress, such as power generation or mining, can lead to the forced displacement of communities from their traditional lands. It highlights the social and ethical dilemmas regarding the protection of tribal livelihoods, cultures, and land rights in the face of rapid modernization. This is a central theme in modern Indian development studies.

142. (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
The sequence of these events reflects the long journey from early political organization to the post-independence era. It starts with the birth of the Congress in 1885. Decades later, the Muslim

League demanded a separate state in the 1940 Lahore Resolution. Following independence, the integration of Hyderabad was finalized through police action in 1948. Finally, the political crisis of the Emergency occurred much later, in 1975. This chronological order highlights the different stages of Indian political history, from colonial struggle to national consolidation and internal challenges.

143. (C) A plebiscite which favoured joining India.
The integration of Junagadh was finalized by directly consulting the will of the people living there. After the Nawab fled to Pakistan following his unpopular decision to accede to that dominion, the Indian government oversaw the administration of the state. A popular plebiscite was subsequently held in February 1948, where the inhabitants voted overwhelmingly in favor of joining the Indian Union. This democratic process provided the final and legitimate resolution to the crisis, ensuring that the state became a permanent part of India.

144. (C) Early Nationalists: Swaraj as birthright
The slogan "Swaraj is my birthright" is famously associated with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a leader of the Assertive Nationalists, or Extremists. In contrast, the Early Nationalists sought gradual administrative reforms and greater representation within the British system, rather than immediate and complete self-rule. Therefore, this pair is incorrect. All other pairs, such as B.R. Ambedkar's role in the constitution, Bose's leadership of the INA, and the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan, accurately reflect historical facts and associations in the Indian freedom struggle.

145. (B) a, b, and c only
The Indian Constitution is defined by several key features, including a parliamentary form of government, a secular state, and the inclusion of fundamental duties for citizens. These reflect the founders' commitment to a representative and inclusive democracy. However, the constitution is not entirely rigid or unamendable, as it provides specific procedures for changes. It also establishes a federal structure with a division of powers, rather than a purely unitary system. Thus, statements regarding the parliamentary system, secularism, and fundamental duties are the only correct features listed.

146. (C) China
The principles of Panchsheel, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, were first formally enunciated in the preamble to the 1954 agreement between India and China regarding trade and intercourse with Tibet. These principles, which included mutual respect for sovereignty and non-aggression, were intended to guide relations between the two countries and promote regional stability. While they later became a broader cornerstone of India's foreign policy and the Non-Aligned Movement, their formal debut was in this specific bilateral agreement between the two Asian nations.

147. (B) Achieving rapid industrialization and self-reliance through a mixed economy model.
Following independence, India sought to transform its underdeveloped economy through a state-led planning process. The goal was to achieve rapid industrialization and build a self-reliant economy to reduce dependence on foreign nations. This was implemented through a mixed economy model, where the public sector controlled key industries while the private sector was also allowed to operate under regulation. This strategy aimed to modernize the country's infrastructure and improve the overall standard of living through structured and coordinated development efforts across various sectors.

148. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Western-educated middle class was indeed the primary driver of Indian nationalism in its early stages. Because they were trained in modern political thought, they were the first to systematically analyze and articulate the exploitative nature of British colonial rule, particularly its economic impact. This group provided the intellectual leadership and organizational framework needed to launch a national movement. Their ability to bridge local grievances with national aspirations made them the indispensable pioneers of the freedom struggle, making the reason a valid explanation for the assertion.

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201. (B) The newly emerged Western-educated urban middle class.
The early phase of Indian nationalism was primarily driven by the urban middle class, which had been educated in the Western political tradition. This group, including lawyers, journalists, and other professionals, used their knowledge of modern concepts like democracy and liberty to critique British colonial rule. They were the first to organize national political forums and articulate a coherent nationalist agenda. While the movement later expanded to include other social classes, it was this urban intelligentsia that provided the initial intellectual and organizational foundation for the struggle for self-rule.

202. (A) Moderate / Early Nationalist
During its first two decades, the Indian National Congress followed a Moderate or Early Nationalist ideology. This approach focused on achieving administrative and constitutional reforms through peaceful and legal means, such as petitions and public meetings. The leadership believed in the fairness of the British political system and sought greater Indian representation while maintaining a link with the Empire. They did not initially demand complete independence or use radical methods of mass agitation. Their goal was to secure gradual improvements in colonial governance through dialogue and constitutional agitation.

203. (C) a, b, and c only
The economic reforms introduced in 1991, known as the LPG policies, represented a major shift toward a market-oriented economy. Liberalisation involved reducing government regulations and licenses, while Privatisation focused on selling off shares of public sector undertakings to private owners. These reforms aimed to integrate India more deeply into the global economy through trade and investment. However, Globalisation involved more integration, not isolation. Therefore, the statements concerning the LPG name, liberalisation, and privatisation are the only correct descriptions of these fundamental economic policy changes.

204. (B) Poona Pact
The demand for separate electorates for the depressed classes was a major point of political contention that was initially addressed by the Communal Award. However, Mahatma Gandhi opposed separate electorates, believing they would permanently divide the Hindu community. This led to negotiations between Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar, resulting in the Poona Pact of 1932. This agreement replaced separate electorates with reserved seats for the depressed classes within the general electorate. The pact was a significant compromise that shaped the future of political representation for marginalized communities in India.

205. (A) Premier Zhou Enlai of China.
The Panchsheel agreement, which established the five principles of peaceful co-existence, was formally signed in 1954 between Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. The agreement concerned trade and intercourse between the two nations regarding Tibet. These principles, which included mutual respect for territorial integrity and non-aggression, were intended to provide a framework for friendly relations between India and China. They eventually became a central doctrine of India's non-aligned foreign policy and a model for international cooperation during the Cold War era.

206. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The reorganization of states along linguistic lines was indeed a significant political challenge after independence, driven by intense regional demands. Proponents argued that states based on language would be more administratively efficient and would enhance democratic participation by allowing people to engage with the government in their own tongue. Recognizing this as a more rational basis for state formation, the government eventually undertook a massive reorganization. The reason accurately explains why this became a major issue, as the demand was seen as a key step toward a more representative federation.

207. (A) Assertive Nationalists focused on mass action like boycott, while Revolutionaries focused on individual heroic acts.
While both groups were radical, they differed fundamentally in their strategy. Assertive Nationalists aimed to mobilize the general public through mass movements involving boycotts,

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persuasion and firm action. While many states joined peacefully, others like Hyderabad and Junagadh required more direct intervention. His successful efforts ensured the territorial integrity of the newly independent nation, earning him the title of the 'Iron Man of India' for this historic achievement.

156. (C) Permanent executive, consisting of civil servants, responsible for administration.
In the Indian political system, the bureaucracy refers to the permanent executive branch, which is composed of professional civil servants who manage the day-to-day administration of the country. Unlike elected politicians whose terms are temporary, bureaucrats are permanent employees who provide continuity and expertise across different government administrations. They are responsible for implementing laws and policies formulated by the legislature. This structure, inherited from the colonial era but adapted for a democracy, is essential for the stable and efficient functioning of the government at all levels.

157. (A) The formulation of Five-Year Plans for economic and social development.
Following independence, India institutionalized a state-led development strategy by adopting a planning process. This involved the creation of Five-Year Plans that outlined the nation's economic goals, industrial priorities, and resource allocation. The objective was to achieve rapid industrialization, improve social welfare, and build a self-reliant economy through coordinated government intervention. These plans served as the primary framework for India's economic policy for several decades, guiding investments in critical sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, and industry to modernize the country.

158. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Specific historical figures and groups are associated with defining ideas and contributions in Indian history. Assertive Nationalists are linked to the promotion of Swadeshi and the goal of Swaraj. B.R. Ambedkar played a monumental role as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Constitution. Jawaharlal Nehru formulated the foreign policy doctrine of Panchsheel. Subhas Chandra Bose led the Forward Bloc and the Indian National Army. Matching these correctly provides a clear picture of the diverse leadership and ideologies that shaped modern India.

159. (B) Demonstrated the fragility of democratic institutions under stress.
The period of Emergency from 1975 to 1977 is a critical turning point in Indian politics because it highlighted how easily democratic norms and constitutional protections could be suspended. The concentration of power in the executive and the suppression of civil liberties during this time served as a profound warning about the vulnerabilities of the political system. This era prompted major debates on the need for stronger safeguards to protect democracy and individual rights, fundamentally shaping the legal and political discourse in the years that followed.

160. (A) a, b, and c only
The evolution of Indian nationalism involved several distinct ideological shifts. Early Nationalists sought reforms within the British system, while Assertive Nationalists used passive resistance and boycotts to challenge it more aggressively. Concurrently, Revolutionaries believed in using any means, including armed struggle, to achieve independence. However, the claim that Gandhian movements were based on armed struggle is incorrect, as their defining feature was a strict commitment to non-violence. Therefore, only the statements concerning the Early, Assertive, and Revolutionary phases are historically accurate.

161. (A) Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations that could not coexist in one country.
The demand for Pakistan was built upon the Two-Nation Theory, which argued that Hindus and Muslims possessed distinct and irreconcilable cultural, social, and political identities. Proponents of this theory claimed that Muslims were a separate nation rather than just a minority group. They believed that in a unified India, the interests of Muslims would be permanently overshadowed by the Hindu majority. Therefore, the only solution was the creation of a separate sovereign homeland where Muslims could govern themselves according to their own values and interests.

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162. (A) To fulfill a demand that was part of the nationalist struggle for a more rational and democratic basis for state formation.
The reorganization of states along linguistic lines was a fulfillment of a long-standing promise made during the freedom struggle. Nationalists believed that administrative boundaries should reflect the language and culture of the people to make governance more democratic and accessible. By creating linguistic states, the government aimed to enhance political participation and strengthen the federal structure of the country. This process was seen as a more rational way to manage India's immense diversity while fostering a sense of belonging and cultural pride among different regional groups.

163. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Swadeshi movement indeed represented a major leap forward because it shifted the nationalist struggle from elite petitions to active mass participation. By introducing radical techniques like the boycott of foreign goods and the promotion of indigenous industries, the movement exerted direct economic and political pressure on the colonial government. These new methods of mass mobilization paved the way for future phases of the independence struggle, demonstrating that a popular, assertive approach was more effective than the earlier moderate tactics. Therefore, the reason accurately explains the assertion.

164. (B) Large industrial and mining projects are often located in tribal areas, leading to their displacement.
In post-independence India, the conflict between industrial development and tribal rights is a persistent challenge. Many of the country's mineral resources and sites suitable for dams are located in ancestral tribal territories. When the state initiates large projects in these areas, it often results in the forced removal of tribal communities from their lands. This displacement causes significant social disruption and the loss of traditional livelihoods. The conflict centers on the fact that these communities often bear the costs of development without sharing in its benefits.

165. (C) Advocated individual heroic action and armed struggle.
The ideology of the Revolutionaries was distinct from the mainstream Congress because they rejected both constitutional methods and mass non-violence. They believed that British colonial rule was maintained through force and could only be ended through militant resistance. Their strategy focused on individual acts of heroism, such as the assassination of unpopular officials, to inspire the youth and challenge the state's authority. By choosing the path of armed struggle and clandestine activity, they aimed to create an atmosphere of revolt and force the British to leave India.

166. (B) Selling shares of PSUs to the private sector and public.
Privatisation is a core element of the economic reforms that began in 1991, signaling a significant shift away from the state-led industrial model. It involves the reduction of government ownership in public sector undertakings by selling their shares to private investors or the general public. This policy aims to improve the efficiency and profitability of these enterprises by introducing market discipline and competition. It represents a fundamental move toward a more market-oriented economy where the private sector plays an increasingly dominant role in national industrial development.

167. (B) Pioneer and leader, especially in the early phase.
The Western-educated middle class played an indispensable role as the pioneer of the Indian national movement. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this group provided the intellectual leadership and organizational framework needed to form national political associations. Using their knowledge of modern political concepts, they were the first to articulate a systematic critique of British rule. Their leadership was essential for defining the nationalist agenda and bridging various regional interests, setting the stage for the mass movements that followed in later decades.

168. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Indian Constitution establishes a dual polity where power is clearly divided between the central government and the various state governments. This division is organized into specific lists—the

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Union, State, and Concurrent lists—to define the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of each level. The study of how these two levels of government interact, share resources, and manage conflicts is the essence of Centre-State relations. Both statements are accurate, as they correctly identify the structural framework and the primary focus of political relations within the Indian federation.

169. (C) Formulation of the 'Drain Theory'.
Early nationalist leaders provided a compelling economic argument against colonial rule by formulating the 'drain theory'. This analysis, famously promoted by Dadabhai Naoroji, argued that a large portion of India's wealth was being systematically siphoned off to Britain without any equivalent return. By highlighting how this process caused widespread poverty and hindered national development, they exposed the exploitative nature of British economic policies. This theory was crucial for building national consciousness and providing a factual basis for the demand for economic and political self-rule.

170. (D) Joining a specific military bloc for collective security.
Panchsheel was based on five principles designed to promote international peace and cooperation through mutual respect and non-interference. It emphasized peaceful co-existence and the equality of nations, regardless of their size or power. Crucially, the doctrine was intended as an alternative to the cold war era's competitive military alliances. Therefore, joining a military bloc would have been completely contrary to the spirit of Panchsheel, which sought to avoid entanglement in global power struggles and promote an independent, non-aligned approach to foreign relations.

171. (C) The Constituent Assembly of India.
The Indian Constitution was drafted by the Constituent Assembly, a body of representatives specifically elected to create the foundational law for the newly independent nation. This assembly included leaders from diverse political and social backgrounds, ensuring that the document reflected the aspirations of all sections of Indian society. Over several years, the members engaged in rigorous debates and discussions to finalize the constitution. This process established the framework for a democratic republic, making the assembly the primary architect of the nation's political and legal structure.

172. (A) a, c, and e only
Immediately after independence, India faced severe crises, including the massive task of refugee rehabilitation and the shock of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. The demarcation of new borders also created long-standing territorial disputes. However, the integration of Hyderabad was not peaceful, as it required military action, and the economy was suffering from the disruptions of partition rather than blooming. Therefore, only the statements concerning the refugee problem, border disputes, and Gandhi's assassination are factually correct descriptions of the challenges faced by the new nation in 1947.

173. (B) The use of religion-based identity for political mobilisation and to create social divisions.
Communal politics involves using religious identity as the primary basis for political organization and to achieve specific power goals. In modern Indian history, this often meant portraying different religious communities as having fundamentally conflicting interests. This ideology was frequently encouraged by colonial policies to weaken national unity. Ultimately, communal politics fostered social divisions and mutual distrust, playing a decisive role in the eventual partition of the subcontinent. It represents a form of mobilization that prioritizes religious loyalty over a broader, inclusive national identity.

174. (B) Swadeshi, Boycott, and National Education.
The programme of the Assertive Nationalists was defined by a more radical and direct approach to challenging British colonial rule. They moved beyond moderate petitions and instead emphasized mass mobilization through the use of Swadeshi and the boycott of British goods. They also prioritized the establishment of a national education system to foster a sense of pride and self-reliance among Indian youth. These methods were designed to exert economic and political pressure on the government while building the foundation for complete self-rule, or Swaraj.

175. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

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188. (D) Provision for a state religion.
The Indian Constitution is fundamentally secular, meaning it does not provide for a state religion and ensures that all faiths are treated with equal respect. This is a defining feature that distinguishes India from theocratic states. All other features listed, such as a federal system with a strong central government, an independent judiciary to protect legal rights, and Directive Principles to guide social policy, are key components of the Indian constitutional framework. The commitment to secularism was intended to unify a diverse population and protect the religious freedom of all citizens.

189. (D) All a, b, c, and d
The integration of the princely states was a complex process involving various methods and outcomes. Hyderabad was brought into the Union through military action, while Kashmir acceded following an invasion that forced the ruler's decision. Junagadh's status was resolved by a popular plebiscite. Ultimately, all princely states within the borders of the subcontinent had to choose to join either India or Pakistan, leading to the final territorial consolidation of the two new nations. All these statements are correct descriptions of the different paths taken during the integration process.

190. (C) Active and diverse, ranging from participation in mass movements to revolutionary activities.
Women played a multifaceted and essential role in the struggle for Indian independence. Their participation was not limited to supportive tasks; they joined mass processions, picketed shops, and were active in civil disobedience campaigns. Some women also chose the path of militant resistance, participating in clandestine revolutionary activities. This diverse involvement reflected a broad political awakening across genders and significantly strengthened the movement's legitimacy and scale. It also challenged traditional social boundaries and paved the way for the greater empowerment of women in post-independence Indian society.

191. (A) Greater integration with the world economy through trade and capital flows.
Globalisation, as part of the economic reforms that began in 1991, signifies a move toward making the Indian economy more interconnected with the international market. This policy involved reducing trade barriers, simplifying foreign investment rules, and encouraging the flow of global capital and technology into the country. By opening up domestic sectors to international competition, the government aimed to modernize the industrial base and promote faster economic growth. This represented a major shift away from the earlier model of a closed, state-protected economy and toward global economic integration.

192. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Following independence, India deliberately chose a planned economy model to address the legacy of colonial underdevelopment. The government believed that a state-led approach was necessary to achieve rapid industrialization and to ensure that resources were directed toward social welfare and poverty reduction. By using Five-Year Plans to coordinate investment, the nation sought to build a self-reliant economy and reduce internal inequalities. This planning process was the central pillar of India's development strategy for several decades, making the reason a valid and accurate explanation for the assertion.

193. (C) Methods of struggle and attitude towards the British.
The fundamental difference between the Early and Assertive Nationalists lay in their strategy for achieving political goals. Early Nationalists favored constitutional agitation and maintained faith in British justice, using petitions and dialogue to seek gradual reforms. In contrast, Assertive Nationalists were more confrontational and critical of colonial rule, advocating for mass-based direct action like boycotts and Swadeshi. While both generally sought self-rule, their differing attitudes toward the British and their choice of either legal or radical methods of struggle defined the major ideological rift within the nationalist movement.

194. (A) Issues of land alienation, displacement, and loss of culture due to development projects.
Tribal issues in post-independence India are frequently tied to the impact of modernization and industrial growth. Large projects like dams, mines, and industrial corridors are often located in tribal territories, leading to the forced

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separate electorates, and the pursuit of human dignity and equality within the Hindu social structure. Its primary goal was comprehensive social reform and political empowerment.

182. (B) Seeking the help of foreign powers, including the Axis powers, to fight the British.
Subhas Chandra Bose believed that achieving independence required a more radical and militant approach than the non-violent methods of mainstream nationalism. He argued that taking advantage of Britain's difficulties during World War II was essential for liberation. Consequently, he sought support from foreign powers, including Germany and Japan, to organize the Indian National Army. His strategy was based on the belief that an external military force, combined with an internal uprising, would be the most effective way to end colonial rule and achieve total independence for India.

183. (C) It strengthened the federal character of the Indian state.
The Emergency declared in 1975 was characterized by the centralization of power in the national government, which effectively weakened rather than strengthened the federal structure. During this period, state governments were often bypassed, and central authority was used to suppress dissent across the country. All other statements, such as its proclamation on the grounds of internal disturbance, the suspension of fundamental rights, and the imposition of press censorship and political arrests, are historically accurate. The Emergency is remembered as a period of significant democratic curtailment and executive overreach.

184. (D) Economic policies
The planning process in post-independence India was the primary mechanism used to design and implement the nation's economic policies. Through a series of Five-Year Plans, the government outlined its goals for industrialization, agricultural development, and poverty reduction. This structured approach allowed the state to coordinate investments and manage resources to achieve long-term economic growth and self-reliance. Planning served as the foundational tool for transforming a colonial, underdeveloped economy into a modern, state-led industrial system, reflecting the government's developmental priorities for several decades after 1947.

185. (C) Communal politics and the two-nation theory of the Muslim League.
The creation of Pakistan was the direct result of a political movement that mobilized around a separate religious identity. The Muslim League's promotion of the Two-Nation Theory claimed that Hindus and Muslims were two distinct nations with irreconcilable interests, which eventually made the demand for partition its central goal. This rising communal sentiment, fueled by political competition and colonial policies, created deep divisions in the national movement. These developments shifted the focus from a unified independent India to the eventual division of the subcontinent into two sovereign states.

186. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is false.
The linguistic reorganization of states was not a seamless process; it was driven by intense popular agitations and widespread demands from diverse regions for boundaries that reflected cultural and linguistic identities. Therefore, statement I is incorrect. However, statement II correctly observes that while some leaders initially feared that creating linguistic states might undermine national unity, the process ultimately strengthened Indian federalism. By accommodating regional aspirations within the constitutional framework, linguistic reorganization reduced secessionist pressures and fostered a more stable and representative union of states.

187. (A) Calcutta session, 1906
The Calcutta session of 1906 was a significant turning point for the Indian National Congress, as it was here that the goal of 'Swaraj' was first explicitly demanded. Under the presidency of Dadabhai Naoroji, and with pressure from the Assertive Nationalists, the Congress adopted resolutions on Swadeshi, Boycott, and National Education. This session marked a major shift in the organization's agenda, moving beyond moderate reforms to a more assertive demand for self-rule. It reflected the growing influence of radical leaders who wanted to intensify the struggle against British rule.

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149. (A) Illiteracy, regional disparity, and the need for scientific and technical manpower.
Post-independence education reforms were designed to address the deep-seated problems inherited from the colonial era. The government prioritized expanding literacy to ensure a functioning democracy and reducing regional gaps in educational access. Furthermore, there was an urgent need to create a skilled workforce capable of supporting the nation's industrial and technological ambitions. By modernizing the educational system, these policies aimed to foster a scientific temper and provide the human resources necessary for national development and social progress in a modern era.

150. (B) It helped break down social barriers and paved the way for their empowerment.
The massive participation of women in the national movement had a profound and lasting impact on Indian society. By stepping into the public political sphere to protest and face imprisonment, women challenged traditional domestic constraints and demonstrated their capacity for leadership. This collective action began to dismantle long-standing social barriers and brought women's issues to the forefront of the national agenda. It established a precedent for gender equality in the new nation and paved the way for their continued empowerment in social, political, and economic life.

151. (B) Demanding complete independence from the very beginning.
During the early phase of the Indian National Congress, the leadership focused on achieving administrative reforms and greater representation within the British government. They sought to promote national unity and create a sense of political consciousness among the educated elite. However, the demand for 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence only emerged as the primary goal much later, especially after the late 1920s. In the initial decades, the Congress generally operated within the legal framework and maintained a loyalty to the British Crown while seeking moderate reforms.

152. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Depressed Class Movement was a fundamental struggle for social justice that aimed to challenge the deeply entrenched inequalities of the caste system. Its leaders sought to dismantle the practices of untouchability and exclusion that marginalized millions. To achieve this, they emphasized the need for specific political safeguards, such as reserved seats and representation in legislative bodies, to protect their rights and ensure their voices were heard in governance. Both statements accurately reflect the social and political objectives of this significant movement for human dignity and equality.

153. (B) The goal of achieving Swaraj through non-violent means.
Gandhian mass movements were driven by the overarching objective of achieving self-rule for India using the unique philosophy of non-violence, or Ahimsa. By using methods like non-cooperation and civil disobedience, Gandhi aimed to mobilize all sections of society to peacefully challenge the moral and political authority of the British. The goal was to achieve Swaraj through the collective power of truth-force, or Satyagraha, rather than through armed struggle or class conflict. This approach transformed the freedom struggle into a popular, mass-based movement for national liberation.

154. (B) The weakening of the British imperial power and the intensification of the freedom struggle.
The end of World War II significantly accelerated India's path to independence as the British Empire emerged from the conflict economically exhausted and unable to maintain its vast colonial holdings. At the same time, the nationalist movement within India had intensified, with events like the Quit India Movement and the INA trials creating widespread unrest. This combination of declining imperial strength and overwhelming internal pressure made the continuation of British rule untenable. Consequently, the British were forced to negotiate the final transfer of power and the partition of the subcontinent.

155. (A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in the process.
The integration of over 500 princely states into the Indian Union was a monumental task that required extraordinary diplomatic and political skill. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as the Minister of Home and States, was the central figure who led this process through a combination of

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displacement of these communities from their ancestral lands. This process often results in land alienation and the destruction of traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. The core of the problem is the conflict between national developmental priorities and the protection of the fundamental rights, identity, and welfare of India's indigenous populations.

195. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Key historical events and processes in India are associated with specific defining terms. The integration of Hyderabad is linked to the military operation known as 'Operation Polo'. The redrawing of state boundaries based on language was achieved through the States Reorganisation Act. Communal politics is fundamentally tied to the Two-Nation Theory, which led to partition. The 1991 economic reforms are best defined by the policy of Liberalisation. Matching these correctly provides a clear summary of the political and economic transitions that have shaped the modern Indian state.

196. (A) The transformation of the nationalist movement into a mass movement involving all sections of society.
The most profound contribution of the Gandhian era was the successful mobilization of millions of ordinary Indians from all walks of life. By introducing methods like non-violence and Satyagraha, Gandhi brought peasants, industrial workers, and women into the struggle, transforming it from an elite political debate into a powerful mass movement. This inclusive approach gave the independence cause unparalleled moral authority and made it impossible for the British to continue ruling against the collective will of such a vast population. It was this popular unity that ultimately secured India's freedom.

197. (C) The rehabilitation of millions of displaced refugees.
While partition involved complex administrative and political divisions, its most immediate and staggering human challenge was the refugee crisis. Millions of people were forced to flee across the new borders amidst horrific communal violence, arriving in a state of total displacement and trauma. The newly formed Indian government had to dedicate massive resources to provide food, shelter, and long-term rehabilitation for these people. Managing this humanitarian disaster was a critical task that tested the administrative capacity and the social fabric of the young nation in its earliest days.

198. (A) Permanence, neutrality, and hierarchical structure.
The Indian bureaucracy, often called the 'steel frame', is defined by its professional and institutional characteristics. It is a permanent body of civil servants who serve across different political administrations, ensuring continuity in governance. Based on a strict hierarchy and merit-based recruitment, it is intended to function as a neutral executive arm that implements policies objectively according to established laws and rules. This structure provides the necessary stability for the administration of a large and diverse democracy, maintaining the essential functions of the state regardless of changes in political leadership.

199. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The Indian Independence Act of 1947 was the legislative instrument that formalized the partition and established India and Pakistan as two independent dominions. However, it was not based on the Cabinet Mission Plan, which had originally proposed a unified but decentralized India. Instead, the Act was based on the Mountbatten Plan, which accepted the inevitability of partition after earlier proposals had failed. Therefore, while statement I correctly identifies the act's role in partition, statement II is incorrect regarding the specific plan that provided the basis for the final division.

200. (C) The Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
B.R. Ambedkar made a definitive contribution to the creation of the Indian Constitution through his leadership of the committee responsible for its final drafting. In this role, he synthesized various proposals and ensured that the document provided a robust framework for a modern, democratic republic. He was particularly instrumental in incorporating safeguards for marginalized groups and establishing the principles of social justice and equality. Because of his profound intellectual and legal influence on the final text, he is widely regarded as the principal architect of the nation's constitution.

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Various political groups in the Indian independence movement are defined by their characteristic goals and methods. Early Nationalists used constitutional agitation and the '3 Ps' (petition, prayer, protest). Revolutionaries favored individual heroism and armed struggle. The Gandhian movement transformed the struggle through Satyagraha and non-violence. Left Wing groups added a socio-economic dimension by focusing on the rights of peasants and workers. Matching these correctly illustrates the diverse ideological evolution of the struggle against colonial rule, showing how the movement's strategy shifted over time.

176. (A) It involved an invasion from a foreign power (Pakistan) which complicated the accession.
The integration of Kashmir was uniquely challenging because it was complicated by external military aggression. Unlike Hyderabad and Junagadh, which were largely internal issues, Kashmir faced an immediate invasion by tribal raiders supported by the Pakistani military shortly after independence. This forced the Maharaja to seek Indian military intervention, leading to his signing of the Instrument of Accession under duress. This foreign involvement initiated a long-term territorial dispute and turned the accession into an international issue, distinguishing it from other princely states' integration processes.

177. (B) Modernise and expand the educational infrastructure to meet national needs.
Post-independence education initiatives were designed to transform the limited colonial system into one that served the needs of a modern, developing nation. These efforts focused on significantly expanding the number of schools and universities to increase literacy and provide higher education opportunities. The goal was to modernize the curriculum, with an emphasis on science and technology, to create a skilled workforce for national progress. By improving educational infrastructure, the government aimed to foster social mobility and ensure that every citizen could contribute to the nation's growth.

178. (C) It is a permanent, hierarchical, and rule-based administrative system.
The Indian bureaucracy is characterized by its permanence and its commitment to a set of established rules and hierarchies. Unlike elected officials who change with political cycles, civil servants remain in their roles, providing continuity in administration and policy implementation. This system is designed to be professional and merit-based, with clearly defined levels of authority. By operating according to standardized procedures, the bureaucracy aims to ensure that governance is stable, objective, and consistent across different regions and changing political environments in the country.

179. (B) Economic exploitation by British imperialism.
The economic foundation of Indian nationalism was rooted in the shared experience of suffering under colonial economic policies. Diverse sections of society, including peasants, artisans, and the emerging middle class, all felt the negative impact of high taxes, the drain of wealth, and the decline of indigenous industries. This collective experience of exploitation provided a powerful material basis for national unity. It led to the realization that only by ending British rule could India achieve economic prosperity and protect its resources for the benefit of its own people.

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180. (C) Creating a platform for educated Indians to voice their political aspirations.
The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 primarily to provide a unified, national-level forum for the Western-educated elite. During its early years, its goal was to bring together leaders from across the country to discuss administrative reforms and to communicate Indian grievances to the British government in an organized manner. It did not initially seek immediate independence or mass agitation. Instead, it focused on creating a space where the political and professional classes could collaborate to demand greater representation and improvements in colonial governance.

181. (C) A is true but R is false.
The Depressed Class Movement, spearheaded by B.R. Ambedkar, was indeed a pivotal struggle for the assertion of Dalit identity and the achievement of fundamental social and political rights. However, the reason provided is incorrect. The movement was far from being just about economic concessions. It focused on a broad social and political agenda, including the eradication of untouchability, the demand for

Swadeshi, and passive resistance to challenge the government. In contrast, the Revolutionary movement relied on small-group clandestine activities and individual heroic acts, such as targeted assassinations, to inspire fear and revolt. Therefore, the main distinction lay in whether they prioritized broad-based public defiance or clandestine militant strikes as the primary means to end British rule and achieve their nationalist objectives.

208. (A) The implementation of large-scale development projects like dams and mines.
In the context of modern India's development debates, 'displacement' refers to the forced uprooting of large numbers of people from their ancestral lands to make way for infrastructure. This is most frequently caused by mega-projects such as large dams, industrial complexes, and mining operations. Such displacement often leads to the loss of traditional livelihoods and social disintegration, especially for tribal and rural communities. This issue highlights the ongoing tension between national economic goals and the rights of local populations who often pay the highest price for industrial progress.

209. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Major post-independence themes are defined by key figures and challenges. Partition is inextricably linked to the massive refugee problem. State integration was primarily led by the efforts of Sardar Patel. The making of the Constitution was guided by the leadership of B.R. Ambedkar as the drafting committee chairman. Economic planning was institutionalized through the creation of the Planning Commission. Matching these correctly provides a clear summary of the critical processes and people that shaped the foundations of the newly independent Indian state in its early years.

210. (A) Leading to a major debate on the balance between individual liberty and state power.
The National Emergency declared in 1975 had a profound impact on Indian politics by triggering intense debates about the fragility of democracy. By suspending fundamental rights and centralizing power, the period forced a re-evaluation of the constitutional safeguards intended to prevent executive overreach. It highlighted the essential tension between the state's authority to maintain order and the individual's right to liberty. This era led to significant legal and political reforms aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and protecting civil freedoms from arbitrary suspension in the future.

211. (C) It was solely a movement of the educated elite with no mass participation.
The Swadeshi movement, launched in response to the partition of Bengal, was significant because it marked the transition to a mass movement. While led by the educated elite, it successfully mobilized large numbers of students, urban workers, and ordinary citizens to participate in boycotts and public protests. It was far from being an exclusively elite affair. All other statements, such as its focus on Indian goods, its role in fostering self-reliance, and its direct link to the partition of Bengal, are correct descriptions of this influential phase of the national struggle.

212. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
In its early years, the Muslim League was indeed established with the aim of promoting loyalty to the British government to ensure the protection of Muslim interests. However, statement II is false because the League's ideology underwent a radical transformation. Starting as a group seeking communal safeguards, it eventually adopted the Two-Nation Theory and demanded the creation of a separate independent state, Pakistan. Therefore, the League's objectives changed significantly over time, moving from loyalty to the British to the demand for the partition of the subcontinent.

213. (A) The strategy of state-led planning and the creation of a public sector.
In the decades immediately after gaining independence, India followed an economic policy defined by a central role for the state. This involved formulating Five-Year Plans to guide the nation's growth and investing heavily in a large public sector to control key industries like steel and power. The goal was to achieve rapid industrialization and social welfare through a state-directed approach to development. This model aimed to build a self-reliant economy and reduce the dependence on foreign nations, reflecting the government's developmental priorities during that period.

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227. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Defining terms in the nationalist struggle carry specific meanings. Swaraj refers to the goal of self-rule or independence. Swadeshi involves the use of indigenous goods and the boycott of foreign products. Satyagraha is the practice of non-violent resistance or truth-force popularized by Gandhi. Sarvodaya signifies the ideal of the welfare of all people. Matching these correctly illustrates the diverse concepts that provided the ideological foundation for the movement, showing how different strategies were combined to challenge colonial rule and envision a new society.

228. (B) An acute economic crisis faced by the country around 1991.
The shift toward Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation in 1991 was primarily driven by a severe economic crisis characterized by a major balance of payments problem. The country's foreign exchange reserves had fallen to critically low levels, making it difficult to pay for essential imports. To resolve this situation and stabilize the economy, the government undertook fundamental reforms to reduce state control and encourage market competition. These measures aimed to modernize the industrial base and integrate India into the global market, marking a significant departure from earlier policies.

229. (A) The unprecedented communal violence and the creation of a refugee crisis.
The partition of India in 1947 had a catastrophic social impact, primarily due to the sudden eruption of massive communal riots and bloodshed. This violence led to one of the largest human migrations in history, as millions were forced to leave their homes and flee across the new borders. The resulting refugee crisis placed an immense burden on the new nation and left deep scars on the social fabric of the subcontinent. This period of trauma and displacement is the most significant and tragic consequence of the division of the country.

230. (A) Policies for social and economic justice.
The Directive Principles of State Policy are a key feature of the Indian Constitution, providing a set of guidelines for the government to follow in its governance. These principles aim to establish a social order characterized by justice, liberty, and equality. While they are not legally enforceable in a court of law, they are fundamental to the governance of the country and represent the state's commitment to the welfare of its people. They provide a vision for achieving social and economic justice for all citizens in a modern democracy.

231. (C) a, b, c, and d only
The history of Indian nationalism is marked by a clear progression of major events and ideologies. This includes the birth of the Congress in 1885, the Swadeshi movement against the partition of Bengal, the Gandhian era of mass non-violence, and Bose's leadership of the INA. However, the claim that the Muslim League was formed to support the Congress is incorrect, as it was established to specifically protect Muslim interests. Therefore, only the statements concerning the Congress, Swadeshi, Gandhi, and the INA are factually correct descriptions of the movement.

232. (C) Permanent and hierarchical civil service responsible for administration.
The Indian bureaucracy is structured as a professional and permanent body of civil servants who manage the nation's administration regardless of changes in political leadership. This system is hierarchical, with clearly defined levels of authority and standardized rules for operation. Based on merit-based recruitment through competitive exams, it provides the administrative continuity and expertise needed for governance in a large democracy. This structure ensures that the executive functions of the state remain stable and consistent, serving as the essential machinery for implementing laws and developmental policies across the country.

233. (A) Advocated a more militant and radical approach to achieve Swaraj.
Assertive Nationalists, often known as Extremists, were a group within the Indian National Congress that pushed for more radical methods of struggle. They rejected the moderate approach of petitions and instead advocated for mass action through boycotts of foreign goods and the use of Swadeshi. Their goal was the attainment of Swaraj, or complete self-rule, which they believed could only be achieved through assertive and direct confrontation with

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Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic, they established the foundational values that would guide the country's governance. This vision ensured that India would be independent of foreign rule, committed to social welfare, neutral in religious matters, and governed by the will of the people through elected representatives. These principles were intended to unify a diverse population and provide a stable framework for progress and justice.

221. (B) Passive resistance, boycott, and Swadeshi.
The period of Assertive Nationalism saw the rise of leaders who rejected the moderate methods of petitions and prayers. Instead, they advocated for more radical and direct tactics to challenge British rule. They promoted the boycott of foreign goods and the use of Swadeshi to exert economic pressure on the colonial administration. By practicing passive resistance, they aimed to make the governance of India by the British impossible. Their approach was based on the belief that independence could only be achieved through mass mobilization and self-reliance.

222. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Post-independence India did adopt a state-led planning process through Five-Year Plans to guide its economic development, making statement I correct. However, statement II is false because the 1991 LPG reforms represented a fundamental shift in policy rather than a continuation of the same planning process. These reforms moved the country away from the earlier model of state control and towards a more market-oriented economy with reduced government regulation. This transition marked a major departure from the developmental strategies followed during the first several decades of independence.

223. (A) To redraw state boundaries to align with linguistic demographics, promoting local language and culture.
The central idea of linguistic reorganization was to create administrative boundaries that reflected the language spoken by the majority of the population in a region. This was seen as a way to make democracy more accessible and meaningful by allowing citizens to communicate with the government in their own tongue. By aligning states with linguistic identities, the government hoped to promote local culture and reduce regional grievances. This process aimed to strengthen national unity by accommodating India's immense diversity within a rational, federal structure.

224. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The founding of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was a landmark event that initiated a new phase in the nationalist movement. For the first time, a permanent, national-level organization was established to represent the political aspirations of Indians from across the entire country. This unified platform allowed leaders to move beyond regional concerns and articulate collective demands to the British government on a national scale. The reason accurately explains why this event was so significant, as it provided the organizational structure needed for a nationwide struggle.

225. (A) Nizam's desire to maintain an independent status for his state.
The integration of Hyderabad was particularly difficult because the Nizam refused to join the Indian Union, seeking instead to establish the state as a sovereign independent entity. This stance was untenable for the Indian government, given Hyderabad's central geographic location and the rising internal instability caused by the Razakar militia. The Nizam's insistence on independence directly challenged the vision of a unified Indian nation. This political deadlock eventually led the Indian government to launch a military 'police action' to force the state's accession to the Union.

226. (A) The rights and struggles of peasants and workers.
Left Wing Politics within the national movement was defined by its commitment to economic justice and social transformation. Proponents of this ideology believed that true liberation from colonial rule must also include the liberation of the rural and urban poor from exploitation by landlords and capitalists. By focusing on the rights of peasants and workers, they sought to build a mass-based movement that would lead to a socialist India. Their perspective ensured that the struggle for independence was linked with the goal of achieving socio-economic equality.

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214. (B) Brought the national movement out of the confines of the home and into the public sphere on a mass scale.
The active participation of women was a transformative force in the Gandhian mass movements. By stepping into the public political arena to join protests and face imprisonment, women broke through centuries of traditional social isolation. This massive involvement demonstrated the deep and universal appeal of the nationalist cause, moving it beyond the male-dominated political circles of the past. It gave the movement greater moral authority and successfully mobilized every part of Indian society, making the struggle for independence a truly inclusive and popular national effort.

215. (B) b and c only
The Indian National Army was primarily composed of Indian prisoners of war and volunteers from across Southeast Asia who sought to liberate India through armed struggle with Japanese support. While Subhas Chandra Bose eventually led and expanded the INA, he was not its original founder. Additionally, the INA operated as an independent military force rather than being a formal wing of the Indian National Congress, and it did not succeed in liberating Delhi. Thus, only the statements regarding its composition and its militant aim are factually correct in this context.

216. (A) The conflict between traditional tribal rights over 'jal, jangal, zameen' (water, forest, land) and modern development projects.
Tribal issues in post-independence India are fundamentally rooted in the tension between indigenous rights and national development goals. These communities have a deep, traditional connection to their natural resources—water, forests, and land. However, these resources are often targeted for large-scale projects like dams, mines, and industrial plants. The resulting displacement and loss of access to ancestral lands often lead to economic and social marginalization. The core problem is how to pursue industrial progress while respecting the fundamental rights and unique cultural identity of India's tribal populations.

217. (A) The division of administrative, financial, and legislative powers.
In the Indian federal system, the relationship between the central government and the states centers on how authority is shared across three key domains. This involves the power to make laws, manage day-to-day administration, and allocate financial resources like tax revenues. The Constitution provides specific lists to define these jurisdictions, but the balance between central control and state autonomy often becomes a point of political conflict. Managing these relations is essential for maintaining national unity while accommodating the regional diversity and administrative needs of various states.

218. (A) Relied on individual acts of violence and conspiracy rather than mass movements.
The ideology of the Revolutionaries was distinct from other nationalist groups because they prioritized clandestine activities over broad-based public mobilization. While Assertive Nationalists sought to organize the masses through boycotts and protests, Revolutionaries focused on small-group conspiracies and individual acts of militancy, such as the assassination of colonial officials. They believed that these radical actions would inspire the youth and challenge British authority by creating an atmosphere of crisis. Their strategy emphasized the power of individual heroism and armed resistance to achieve independence.

219. (A) Its geographic location and the invasion by Pakistan-backed raiders.
The integration of Kashmir became a unique and long-standing challenge because it involved immediate external military aggression. Shortly after independence, tribal raiders, supported by the Pakistani military, invaded the state to force its accession to Pakistan. This external threat forced the Maharaja to seek urgent Indian military help, which required the signing of the Instrument of Accession. This foreign involvement turned an internal matter of accession into an international territorial dispute, distinguishing the Kashmir case from the integration of other princely states like Hyderabad or Junagadh.

220. (A) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic.
The making of the Indian Constitution reflects the founders' vision of a modern and inclusive nation state. By declaring India a Sovereign,

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the British colonial government. Their influence marked a more militant phase in the journey toward independence for the nation.

234. (B) The reduction or removal of government regulations and restrictions on economic activities.
Liberalisation is a key part of the economic reforms that began in 1991, signaling a significant shift away from the state-controlled model. It involves the reduction of the government's role in the economy by removing unnecessary regulations and licenses that previously restricted business activities. This policy aims to improve industrial efficiency, encourage private enterprise, and promote market competition. It represents a fundamental move toward a more market-driven economic structure where the private sector is given more freedom to grow and innovate without excessive government interference in its operations.

235. (C) Social equality, human dignity, and political rights.
The Depressed Class Movement, led by figures like B.R. Ambedkar, was a fundamental struggle for social justice aimed at challenging the systemic exclusion of marginalized castes. It emphasized that achieving political independence from the British was not enough; true liberation required dismantling the caste hierarchy and ensuring social equality for all. The movement sought to obtain political rights and representation to protect the interests of these communities and secure their dignity within Indian society. It remains a pivotal part of the broader struggle for human rights and equality in India.

236. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Panchsheel, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, was a central doctrine in India's early foreign policy. It included the principle of mutual non-aggression, emphasizing that nations should resolve their differences through peaceful means rather than force. This philosophy was a key element of India's broader policy of non-alignment, aimed at maintaining an independent stance during the Cold War. By advocating for these principles, India sought to promote global peace and cooperation without joining the military alliances of major world powers. Both statements accurately reflect this landmark policy.

237. (A) Two-Nation Theory
The genesis of Pakistan is inextricably linked with the Muslim League's adoption of the Two-Nation Theory. This ideology argued that Hindus and Muslims were not just religious groups but two distinct nations with irreconcilable interests. This theory directly challenged the vision of a unified independent India and became the primary political tool used to demand a separate sovereign homeland for Muslims. By mobilizing around this theory, the League eventually secured the partition of the subcontinent and the creation of Pakistan in 1947, marking a fundamental shift in the region's political history.

238. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The participation of women in the national movement underwent a dramatic transformation during the Gandhian era. Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and his unique methods, particularly Satyagraha, were highly effective in bringing women out of their traditional domestic roles and into the public political sphere. By participating in mass protests and facing imprisonment, women became a powerful force in the struggle for independence. The reason accurately explains this assertion, as Gandhi's inclusive and non-violent approach created a space that successfully facilitated the mass mobilization of women across the entire country.

239. (D) A smooth and friendly demarcation of the international border.
The partition of India in 1947 was accompanied by severe and immediate challenges that tested the resilience of the new nation. These included a massive influx of refugees fleeing violence, the outbreak of horrific communal riots across the subcontinent, and contentious disputes over the division of military and financial assets. However, the demarcation of the international border was far from smooth or friendly. It was a hurried and contentious process that led to long-term territorial disputes and deep political tensions between India and Pakistan, unlike the other challenges which were internal crises.

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240. (C) Guide the country's economic development in a structured manner.
Following independence, India adopted a planning process to coordinate its economic and social development through a series of Five-Year Plans. The objective was to achieve rapid industrialization, modernize agriculture, and reduce poverty in a structured and systematic way. By setting clear priorities and allocating resources through central planning, the government aimed to build a self-reliant economy and improve the overall standard of living for its citizens. This structured approach served as the primary framework for India's economic policy for several decades, guiding the country toward its developmental goals after colonial rule.

241. (C) Constitution of India
In the Indian federal system, the relationship between the central government and the various states is defined by the division of powers established in the Constitution of India. This document outlines the legislative, administrative, and financial jurisdictions of both levels of government through specific lists—the Union, State, and Concurrent lists. By providing a clear legal framework for how these powers are shared and distributed, the Constitution ensures a balance between central authority and state autonomy. These constitutional provisions are essential for the functioning of India's democracy and the maintenance of its national unity.

242. (B) A systematic economic critique of colonialism and the drain of wealth theory.
The most significant ideological contribution of the Early Nationalists was their systematic critique of the negative economic impact of British colonial rule. They formulated the 'drain of wealth' theory, which argued that a large portion of India's resources was being siphoned off to Britain without any equivalent return. This analysis helped educate the Indian public about the nature of colonial exploitation and provided a factual basis for the growth of national consciousness. By focusing on economic issues, they provided a material argument for why India needed self-rule and the protection of its own resources.

243. (B) A plebiscite was held that showed an overwhelming majority in favour of joining India.
The integration of the princely state of Junagadh was finalized by directly consulting the will of the local population. After the ruler fled to Pakistan following his unpopular decision to accede to that dominion, the Indian government oversaw the state's administration. A popular plebiscite was subsequently held in February 1948, where the inhabitants voted overwhelmingly in favor of joining the Indian Union. This democratic resolution provided a legitimate and final outcome to the crisis, ensuring that Junagadh became a permanent part of India and reflecting the preferences of its majority Hindu population.

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244. (B) Architect of the Indian Constitution
B.R. Ambedkar made a monumental contribution to the creation of the Indian Constitution through his role as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He was responsible for synthesizing various proposals and ensuring that the final document reflected the ideals of justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens. His legal expertise and commitment to social reform were instrumental in incorporating specific safeguards for marginalized communities within the constitutional framework. Because of his profound intellectual and legal influence on the final text, he is widely regarded as the principal architect of the nation's constitution.

245. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Key historical processes and events in modern India are associated with specific defining terms. The 1991 economic policy shift is linked to the LPG reforms of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation. The redrawing of state boundaries based on language is known as linguistic reorganization. The 1975 political crisis is defined by the declaration of National Emergency. The integration of the reluctant state of Hyderabad was achieved through military police action. Matching these correctly provides a clear summary of the major political and economic transitions that have shaped the contemporary Indian state and its governance.

246. (A) The Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements.
Gandhian mass movements are best exemplified by the large-scale, non-violent campaigns that mobilized millions of ordinary Indians against British colonial rule. These include the Non-

Cooperation Movement in the early 1920s and the Civil Disobedience Movement in the 1930s. By using methods like Satyagraha and peaceful defiance, Gandhi transformed the nationalist struggle into a truly popular and inclusive movement. These campaigns emphasized moral pressure and collective action, demonstrating the power of non-violence to challenge the authority of the colonial state and bring various sections of society together for the cause of independence.

247. (B) Promote literacy and create a skilled workforce for national development.
Post-independence education initiatives were designed to transform the limited colonial system into one that served the needs of a modern, developing nation. These efforts focused on significantly expanding the number of schools and universities to increase literacy and provide higher education opportunities for all citizens. The goal was to modernize the curriculum, with a strong emphasis on science and technology, to create a skilled workforce capable of supporting national industrial and economic progress. By improving educational infrastructure, the government aimed to foster social mobility and ensure that every individual could contribute to the country's growth.

248. (A) The clash between the state's developmental agenda (dams, mines) and the rights of indigenous people.
Tribal issues in post-independence India are fundamentally rooted in the tension between national industrial goals and the rights of indigenous populations. Many of the country's key mineral resources and infrastructure sites are located in ancestral tribal territories. When the state initiates large-scale development projects like dams or mines in these areas, it often results in the forced displacement of tribal communities from their lands. This displacement leads to the loss of traditional livelihoods and cultural identity, highlighting the persistent conflict between the pursuit of rapid modernization and the fundamental rights of marginalized indigenous groups.

249. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The period of National Emergency from 1975 to 1977 was characterized by a severe restriction on democratic rights and press freedom, making statement I false. During this time, the government exercised extraordinary powers to suppress dissent and curtail civil liberties. However, statement II is true because the 42nd Amendment, passed during this period, introduced significant and controversial changes to the Constitution, many of which aimed to increase executive authority and reduce judicial power. These constitutional amendments remain a critical part of India's political history, reflecting the tensions and challenges faced by its democratic institutions during that era.

250. (B) Self-reliance (Atmashakti), self-sacrifice, and demanding Swaraj.
The ideology of the Assertive Nationalists was defined by a more radical and direct approach to challenging British colonial rule. They moved beyond moderate petitions and instead emphasized mass mobilization and individual and collective self-reliance, or Atmashakti. Their central objective was the attainment of Swaraj, which they interpreted as complete self-rule. They believed that independence could only be achieved through assertive action, the spirit of self-sacrifice, and methods like the boycott of foreign goods. This approach marked a significant departure from the earlier moderate tactics, pushing the nationalist movement toward a more defiant stance.

251. (B) A belief in constitutional agitation and reform from within the system.
The Early Nationalists operated within a framework of loyalty to the British Crown while seeking incremental administrative improvements. Their ideology centered on constitutional methods such as petitions and prayers to reform the system from within. This approach, which avoided radical demands, aimed for gradual progress rather than immediate independence, reflecting their belief in British justice and fairness.

252. (A) the common feeling of economic hardship caused by colonial policies.
Economic hardship under colonial rule served as a unifying force for Indian nationalism. British policies led to widespread de-industrialisation, the decline of traditional craftsmanship, and severe pressure on agricultural land. These conditions created a shared experience of

269. (C) It provided them with the political concepts to critique colonial governance effectively.
Western education equipped the Indian middle class with the analytical tools to challenge colonial governance. By using the coloniser's own language and political theories, such as democracy and liberty, they constructed a sophisticated critique of British policies. This intellectual framework allowed them to effectively communicate nationalist goals and argue for self-governance within a modern, internationally recognized political context.

270. (D) Their role evolved from supportive to active and direct participation.
The role of women in the freedom struggle underwent a significant transformation from simple supportive activities to active and direct participation. Initially working behind the scenes, they eventually led protests and faced imprisonment during mass movements. This evolution reflected a broader change in social norms, as women became indispensable participants in the political fight for independence and social reform.

271. (C) Its perceived bourgeois character and neglect of socio-economic issues.
Left Wing proponents criticized the mainstream nationalist movement for its focus on elite interests and its failure to address the needs of workers and peasants. They viewed the leadership as having a bourgeois character that neglected fundamental socio-economic issues. Consequently, they pushed for a more radical agenda that included the total transformation of society alongside the goal of independence.

272. (B) securing social equality and political rights for 'untouchable' castes.
The Depressed Class Movement focused primarily on achieving social equality and securing political rights for castes facing deep-seated discrimination. Leaders like B.R. Ambedkar argued that social liberation was essential for true freedom. They sought constitutional safeguards and political representation to protect the interests of these marginalized groups, often highlighting issues that were not fully addressed by mainstream nationalism.

273. (D) the socialist and communist ideas from the Russian Revolution.
Left Wing politics in India was deeply influenced by the socialist and communist ideals that emerged from the Russian Revolution. These ideologies provided a framework for critiquing both colonial rule and internal social inequalities. Indian leaders inspired by these thoughts advocated for radical changes, such as the nationalisation of industries and the protection of labor rights within the nationalist movement.

274. (A) the demand for separate electorates and specific constitutional safeguards.
A major point of disagreement between the Depressed Class Movement and the Congress was the demand for separate electorates. Movement leaders believed that specific constitutional safeguards were necessary to ensure the political voice of marginalized castes. This stance sometimes created tension with the Congress's desire for a single, unified national front, as it raised questions about internal social representation.

275. (C) The nationalisation of key industries and abolition of landlordism.
Proponents of Left Wing politics advocated for radical socio-economic reforms as part of the independence struggle. Their proposals included the nationalisation of key industries and the total abolition of the landlord system to empower peasants and workers. These policies were designed to ensure that political freedom would lead to an equitable distribution of wealth and the end of economic exploitation.

276. (A) Hindus and Muslims constituted two separate nations incapable of coexisting in one state.
The two-nation theory argued that Hindus and Muslims were two distinct nations with incompatible interests and cultures. According to this view, they could not coexist peacefully within a single, unified state. This ideology served as the fundamental justification for the demand for Pakistan, suggesting that a separate homeland was necessary to protect the identity and rights of Muslims.

277. (D) It introduced a complex triangular dynamic involving the British, Congress, and Muslim League.

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directly confronted the colonial administrative framework.

261. (D) A transformation from an elite agitation to a broad-based mass movement.
Mahatma Gandhi fundamentally changed the nature of the freedom struggle by involving millions of common people. His entry shifted the movement from an elite-led agitation to a broad-based mass struggle. By using Satyagraha and non-violent resistance, he was able to mobilize diverse social groups, turning nationalist sentiment into a powerful force that spanned across different regions and social classes.

262. (B) Gandhi's reliance on non-violent resistance versus Bose's strategy of armed struggle.
The strategies of Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose represent two different approaches to achieving freedom. Gandhi emphasized non-violent resistance and moral force through mass civil disobedience campaigns. In contrast, Bose advocated for military action and armed struggle, even seeking foreign alliances to overthrow the British. Both leaders shared the goal of independence but differed significantly on the means used.

263. (C) challenge the moral and administrative authority of the Raj.
The strength of Gandhian mass movements was their ability to undermine the administrative and moral standing of the British Raj. By mobilizing millions through non-violent Satyagraha, these movements posed a unique challenge that colonial forces found difficult to suppress effectively. This strategy transformed individual grievances into a unified national demand, forcing the colonial government to address popular aspirations.

264. (D) They were seen as two divergent paths aiming for the same outcome of independence.
While Gandhi and Bose utilized vastly different methods, they were both committed to the ultimate goal of Indian independence. Gandhi's path focused on moral resistance and mass participation, whereas Bose's approach relied on military organization and international diplomacy. These strategies were viewed as two distinct yet convergent streams, both contributing to the pressure that eventually led to national freedom.

265. (A) A militant approach based on armed struggle and foreign alliances.
The Indian National Army, led by Subhas Chandra Bose, exemplified a militant approach to the freedom struggle. It relied on organized military force and sought assistance from foreign powers during World War II. This strategy was based on the belief that armed conflict was the most effective way to challenge British control and secure immediate and complete national independence.

266. (B) Forming the intellectual and organisational foundation of the movement.
The middle class provided the essential intellectual and organizational foundation for the early nationalist movement. Comprising educated professionals, they used their knowledge of modern political concepts to critique colonial rule. They managed the committees of the Indian National Congress and disseminated nationalist ideas through public forums, effectively translating local grievances into a coherent and structured national political discourse.

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267. (B) strengthening the movement against colonial rule and challenging internal patriarchal structures.
Women's involvement in the nationalist struggle served both to strengthen the opposition against British rule and to challenge traditional social hierarchies. By participating in public protests and civil disobedience, women broke domestic barriers and asserted their presence in the public sphere. This participation provided the movement with immense moral legitimacy while simultaneously advancing the cause of gender equality.

268. (A) During the era of Gandhian mass movements.
Women's participation became highly visible and significant during the Gandhian phase of the national movement. They actively joined processions, picketed shops selling foreign goods, and participated in various civil disobedience campaigns. This period marked a major shift as women moved from supportive roles to direct political action, significantly broadening the social base and moral impact of the freedom struggle.

economic subjugation among diverse social groups, fostering common discontent and providing a solid economic foundation for the emerging nationalist sentiment.

253. (C) They acted as the primary intellectual and organisational force for the early nationalist movement.
The Western-educated middle class served as the vanguard of the Indian nationalist movement. Leveraging modern democratic ideals, they provided the necessary intellectual and organisational framework to critique colonial rule. Their education enabled them to articulate nationalist aspirations effectively and organize political activities. This group bridged the gap between traditional society and modern political thought, leading early institutional efforts.

254. (D) the formal organisation of a pre-existing nationalist consciousness.
The Indian National Congress, established in 1885, represented the formal institutionalisation of an existing nationalist sentiment. It brought together various groups under a single organizational umbrella to voice collective grievances. This transition from individual or regional dissatisfaction to a national platform marked the beginning of a coordinated effort to seek political and administrative reforms from the colonial government.

255. (C) appealing to the conscience and generosity of the colonial rulers.
Political mendicancy describes the specific methodology used by early nationalist leaders who relied on peaceful petitions and appeals to British authorities. This strategy was based on the hope that appealing to the conscience and sense of justice of the rulers would lead to reform. It emphasized moderate techniques over confrontational tactics to achieve gradual improvements in governance and administration.

256. (B) Assertive Nationalists advocated for direct action, while Early Nationalists preferred constitutional petitions.
Assertive Nationalists rejected the constitutional petitions of their predecessors, advocating instead for direct action and confrontation. They criticized moderate methods as ineffective and sought to challenge British authority through mass mobilization. This shift represented a more radical approach to achieving self-rule, focusing on the collective power of the people rather than purely legalistic appeals to the colonial administration.

257. (D) achieve Swaraj through a comprehensive programme of self-reliance.
The Swadeshi movement was a comprehensive program designed to achieve Swaraj through national self-reliance. It moved beyond a simple boycott of foreign textiles to include the promotion of indigenous industries and national education. This initiative sought to build a self-sufficient nation by reviving domestic traditions and reducing economic dependence on colonial rule, serving as a pillar of assertive nationalism.

258. (A) a disillusionment with the perceived ineffectiveness of mainstream political methods.
Revolutionary nationalism emerged as a response to the perceived failures of both moderate and assertive political methods. These activists believed that individual heroism and armed struggle were necessary to overthrow the colonial state. Their ideology was rooted in the conviction that only radical, direct actions and supreme sacrifices could inspire the masses and achieve the goal of complete independence.

259. (C) It included the promotion of national education and indigenous culture.
Swadeshi represented a holistic vision of national regeneration that encompassed more than just economic boycotts. It promoted national education, the use of vernacular languages, and the development of indigenous enterprises. By fostering a sense of pride in cultural heritage and self-reliance, the movement aimed to create a robust national identity capable of resisting colonial cultural and economic dominance.

260. (A) They questioned the fundamental legitimacy of the colonial presence in India.
Assertive Nationalists fundamentally challenged the right of the British to rule India. Unlike earlier leaders who sought reform within the system, they questioned the very legitimacy of colonial presence. Their ideology was based on cultural pride and the belief that self-rule was an inherent right, leading them to advocate for strategies that

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Communal politics transformed the national movement from a simple conflict between Indians and the British into a complex triangular contest. This dynamic involved the British authorities, the Indian National Congress, and the Muslim League. The rise of religious-based political identities created deep divisions that complicated negotiations for independence and eventually shifted the focus toward the inevitability of territorial partition.

278. (B) the ideological evolution of the Muslim League and its adoption of the two-nation theory.
The demand for Pakistan originated from the ideological evolution of the Muslim League and its adoption of the two-nation theory. As the League sought to safeguard Muslim political interests, it increasingly asserted that Muslims required a separate sovereign state. This demand grew out of the belief that a Hindu majority in a united India would disadvantage the Muslim minority.

279. (C) emphasising the alleged incompatibility between Hindu and Muslim interests.
The Muslim League's political strategy focused on highlighting the fundamental differences and alleged incompatibilities between the Hindu and Muslim communities. By asserting that the interests of the Muslim minority would be suppressed in a united India, the League mobilized support for its cause. This approach emphasized religious identity as the primary factor in political life, leading toward the partition.

280. (D) Communal politics was a direct and fundamental challenge to the Congress's vision of a unified India.
Communal politics posed a direct and fundamental challenge to the secular nationalism championed by the Indian National Congress. While the Congress sought a unified, inclusive India regardless of religion, communal ideologies argued for political divisions based on religious identity. These conflicting visions created a deep schism in the nationalist movement, making a single, shared political future increasingly difficult to achieve.

281. (A) The humanitarian crisis caused by Partition.
Partition caused a massive humanitarian crisis that became an immediate and overwhelming challenge for the newly independent Indian state. The process was marked by catastrophic communal violence and the displacement of millions of people across newly formed borders. Rehabilitating these refugees and managing the resulting social trauma were among the most urgent tasks faced by the government after 1947.

282. (B) cases where the integration process was particularly difficult and complex.
The cases of Kashmir, Hyderabad, and Junagarh illustrate the immense difficulties faced during the process of national consolidation. Unlike most princely states that joined India peacefully, these regions required complex diplomatic, military, or political interventions. Their integration involved unique challenges, such as tribal invasions, police actions, and plebiscites, highlighting the intricate nature of forging a unified and stable nation.

283. (B) It involved a combination of diplomacy, persuasion, and military pressure.
The integration of over five hundred princely states was a multifaceted process involving diplomacy, persuasion, and, in some instances, military pressure. The Indian government had to negotiate with diverse rulers to ensure they acceded to the new Union. While many joined voluntarily, others required more assertive measures, demonstrating that the creation of a unified political map was a complex achievement.

284. (A) intense negotiations overshadowed by the prospect of partition.
The final years leading to 1947 were dominated by intense political negotiations that were increasingly overshadowed by the prospect of partition. Escalating communal tensions and the unwavering demands of different political groups made the transition to independence a period of great uncertainty. This phase was characterized by a struggle to reach a settlement that could address various conflicting aspirations.

285. (C) the Indian government had to use force to ensure integration.
The integration of Hyderabad serves as a significant example of the Indian government using force to ensure national unity. Because the Nizam wished to remain independent and resisted accession, a military police action was eventually undertaken. This case highlights

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that while peaceful negotiation was preferred, the state was prepared to use decisive measures to prevent fragmentation and secure territorial integrity.

286. (D) He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
B.R. Ambedkar served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, playing a central role in shaping the Indian Constitution. His expertise was instrumental in drafting the legal and social framework of the new nation. He is widely recognized for ensuring that the document served as a comprehensive guide for both governance and far-reaching social transformation.

287. (C) Fundamental Rights are protections against the state, while Directive Principles are goals for the state.
The Indian Constitution distinguishes between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy based on their purpose and legal status. Fundamental Rights are justiciable provisions that protect individual citizens from potential state excesses. In contrast, Directive Principles represent the social and economic goals that the state should strive to achieve, providing a roadmap for governance without being legally enforceable.

288. (B) includes provisions aimed at transforming India's hierarchical social structure.
The Indian Constitution is described as a charter for social revolution because it contains specific provisions aimed at dismantling traditional social hierarchies. It seeks to promote social justice through affirmative action and the abolition of practices like untouchability. These elements reflect a deliberate effort to transform Indian society into a more egalitarian and just system through a robust legal framework.

289. (D) Power is divided between the centre and states, but the centre holds more significant power.
A federal structure with a strong unitary bias indicates that while power is divided between the central government and the states, the centre holds more significant authority. This arrangement was designed to ensure national unity and stability in a diverse country. It allows the central government to intervene in state matters when necessary to maintain the integrity of the nation.

290. (A) The provisions related to social justice and the abolition of untouchability.
B.R. Ambedkar's lifelong commitment to the rights of the marginalized is most clearly reflected in constitutional provisions for social justice. He was instrumental in including the abolition of untouchability and establishing legal frameworks for affirmative action. These features demonstrate his influence in making the Constitution a tool for the empowerment and emancipation of the depressed classes in Indian society.

291. (C) The popular demand to align state boundaries with cultural and linguistic identities.
The linguistic reorganisation of states was driven by the popular aspiration to align administrative boundaries with cultural and linguistic identities. Language was viewed as a primary marker of heritage and community. By creating states based on language, the government aimed to satisfy regional demands for better representation and more effective administration, acknowledging the diverse cultural fabric of the nation.

292. (A) They resisted the demand due to fears that it might weaken national unity.
Initially, national leaders were hesitant to reorganize states based on language, fearing that such moves would encourage separatist tendencies and weaken national unity. They were concerned that emphasizing regional identities might undermine the newly formed state's stability. However, strong popular pressure eventually led the government to accept that linguistic states could actually strengthen federalism and democratic participation.

293. (D) built upon the foundation of the inherited colonial administrative system.
The post-independence bureaucracy in India was built upon the existing administrative framework inherited from the British colonial era. Often called the 'steel frame', this system provided the structural continuity needed to manage the transition to a sovereign state. It was repurposed to implement new development policies and

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maintain order while the country underwent significant social and political restructuring.

294. (B) To address issues of access, equity, quality, and modernization.
New education policies in India have been formulated to address several critical objectives, including modernization, quality, access, and equity. These policies aim to update the curriculum to meet contemporary needs while ensuring that education reaches all sections of society. The goal is to build an educational system that supports national development goals and fosters social integration across a diverse population.

295. (C) strengthen Indian federalism by acknowledging linguistic-cultural identities.
Linguistic reorganisation is presented as a strategic effort to strengthen Indian federalism by formally recognizing regional and cultural identities. Rather than causing division, the process aimed to create a more stable and representative administrative structure. By aligning state borders with language, the government sought to promote local governance and ensure that the diverse linguistic groups felt integrated into the nation.

296. (D) The principles of Panchsheel and non-alignment.
Panchsheel and the principle of non-alignment formed the cornerstone of India's early foreign policy. These five principles emphasized peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations. This approach allowed India to maintain its sovereignty and pursue an independent path in international relations, avoiding formal military alliances during the period of the Cold War.

297. (A) away from state-led planning towards a market-oriented system.
The shift toward Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) represented a significant paradigm change in India's economic management. This transition moved the country away from a model of centralized state planning and toward a more market-oriented system. By integrating with the global economy, the reforms aimed to encourage private investment, increase efficiency, and foster faster economic growth across various sectors.

298. (B) The displacement of communities, especially tribal ones.
Large-scale development projects like dams and mines, while intended for national growth, often resulted in the displacement of local communities. Tribal populations were particularly affected, frequently losing their ancestral lands and traditional livelihoods. This negative consequence highlights the complex challenges of balancing industrial development with the rights and welfare of marginalized social groups who depend directly on their natural environment.

299. (B) mixed economy guided by a centralized planning process.
Early economic development in independent India followed a mixed economy model that was guided by a centralized planning process. The state played a dominant role in directing investments and establishing heavy industries through a series of Five-Year Plans. This approach aimed to achieve economic self-sufficiency and social equity by balancing government control with a limited role for private enterprise.

300. (A) a major crisis that tested India's democratic framework.
The declaration of the Emergency is cited as a major crisis that tested the resilience of India's democratic institutions. This period was marked by the suspension of various civil liberties and a significant shift in political dynamics. Its mention serves to illustrate the challenges the nation has faced in maintaining its democratic framework during times of severe political instability.

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Q. Plagiarism
R. Epigraphy
S. Synthesis

List II: (Definition)
1. Study of inscriptions
2. Weaving facts into a narrative
3. Act of discovering sources
4. Intellectual dishonesty

Choose the correct option:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

36. The 'Area of Proposed Research' in a thesis proposal primarily serves to:
(A) List the historian's complete biography.
(B) Provide a final, conclusive answer to the research question.
(C) Criticize all previous works on the topic.
(D) Define the specific scope, timeframe, and geographical limits of the study.

37. What is meant by 'causation' in history?
(A) The philosophical belief that all past historical events are predetermined.
(B) The historian's mental ability to creatively imagine specific past scenes.
(C) The relationship where specific events provide the reason for another.
(D) The simple chronological ordering of events without explaining their links.

38. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The study of regional history is significant for understanding the diversity and complexity of a nation's past.
Reason (R) : Regional history often brings to light local perspectives, events, and social structures that are overlooked in grand national narratives.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

39. Identify the incorrect pair regarding historical methodologies.
(A) Leopold von Ranke – Emphasis on primary sources
(B) Karl Marx – Economic determinism
(C) Arnold Toynbee – Study of civilizations
(D) Oswald Spengler – Linear progress of history

40. Consider the following statements about Post-Modernism in History:
I. It emphasizes the existence of a single, objective historical reality.
II. It views history as a text that is open to multiple interpretations.
III. It challenges the authority of the historian as an objective observer.
IV. It rejects the idea of 'grand narratives' that claim to explain all of history.
V. It promotes the idea that history is a pure science like physics.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I, III and V only
(B) II, III and IV only
(C) I and V only
(D) II, IV and V only

41. A historian who argues that history is a creative process, involving intuition and empathy to understand the past, is viewing history as:
(A) a Science
(B) a Social Science
(C) an Art
(D) a Cyclical process

42. Which of the following is a key feature of Greek historiography as exemplified by Herodotus and Thucydides?
(A) The beginning of rational and critical inquiry into human affairs.
(B) A complete reliance on divine explanation for historical events.
(C) The exclusive focus on economic history.
(D) The belief that history repeats itself in exact cycles.

43. In the context of historical research, what is a 'transit source'?
(A) The original, first-hand account of an event.
(B) A source that analyzes other historical works.
(C) A source found in an archive or library.
(D) A source that has been passed down through translation or copying.

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8. The 'Berlin Revolution in History Writing' is most closely associated with the principle of:
(A) Writing history as it actually was, based on primary sources.
(B) Writing history to serve a nationalist agenda.
(C) Writing history as a cyclical pattern of growth and decay.
(D) Writing history from the perspective of the oppressed classes.

9. Which of the following is the most appropriate first step in the formal process of historical research?
(A) Writing the bibliography.
(B) Collecting primary data.
(C) Selection of a research topic.
(D) Conducting external criticism of sources.

10. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Historical Theory)
P. Scientific Materialism
Q. Cyclical Theory
R. Challenge and Response
S. History as it actually was
List II: (Associated Thinker)
1. Arnold Joseph Toynbee
2. Oswald Spengler
3. Karl Marx
4. Leopold von Ranke
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

11. What does 'Synthesis' in the historical method primarily involve?
(A) The discovery and gathering of historical facts.
(B) The critical examination of sources for authenticity.
(C) The publication and dissemination of research findings.
(D) The weaving of verified facts into a coherent and meaningful narrative.

12. An example of a 'Primary Source' for a historian studying the Indus Valley Civilization would be:
(A) A modern textbook on ancient India.
(B) A seal excavated from a Harappan site.
(C) A research paper published in 2010 on Harappan trade.
(D) A historical novel set in Mohenjo-daro.

13. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Leopold von Ranke is considered the father of modern objective history.
Reason (R) : He emphasized the critical use of primary sources, particularly archival documents, and sought to show 'what actually happened'.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

14. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the nature of history.
(A) History is both a science and an art.
(B) Causation is a key element in historical explanation.
(C) Imagination plays a role in bridging the gaps in historical evidence.
(D) Historical interpretation is static and does not change over time.

15. Consider the following activities related to historical research:
I. Note Taking
II. Data Collection
III. Formulation of Hypothesis
IV. Selection of Topic
V. Synthesis and Presentation
Which of the following represents the most logical sequence of these activities?
(A) IV, III, II, I, V
(B) II, I, IV, III, V
(C) IV, II, III, I, V
(D) I, II, III, IV, V

16. The concept of 'Scientific Materialism' as a philosophy of history is primarily attributed to:
(A) Leopold von Ranke
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
(D) Oswald Spengler

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17. Which of the following best describes 'Negative Criticism' in the context of historical methodology?
(A) A school of thought that denies the possibility of historical truth.
(B) The process of determining the authenticity and genuineness of a historical source.
(C) The interpretation of the meaning and credibility of the content within a source.
(D) A pessimistic view of history as a series of failures.

18. What is the central idea of Arnold Joseph Toynbee's 'Challenge and Response' theory?
(A) Civilizations develop and grow by successfully responding to environmental or social challenges.
(B) Civilizations rise and fall in predictable, biological cycles.
(C) History is driven by the conflict between economic classes.
(D) History progresses linearly towards a predetermined utopian end.

19. In academic writing, what is the primary purpose of a 'footnote'?
(A) To list all the books consulted during the research.
(B) To offer a brief summary of the chapter's content.
(C) To provide additional commentary or to cite the source of information.
(D) To define difficult terminology used in the main text.

20. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Post-modernism challenges the idea of a single, objective historical truth.
Reason (R) : Post-modernist thinkers argue that history is a text and all historical accounts are subjective narratives or "stories".
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

21. Which aspect of historical study is most concerned with 'causation'?
(A) Describing the events of the past chronologically.
(B) Authenticating the date and origin of a document.
(C) Identifying the reasons and consequences of historical events.
(D) Creating a vivid and imaginative narrative of a past era.

22. The term 'Plagiarism' in history writing refers to:
(A) Using too many direct quotations from primary sources.
(B) Presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own without proper citation.
(C) Disagreeing with the arguments of an established historian.
(D) Publishing research that contains factual errors.

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23. A historian studying the history of a specific village or district is engaged in:
(A) Cyclical History
(B) Post-Modern History
(C) Global History
(D) Regional History

24. Which of the following correctly identifies a pair of a historical source type and its example?
(A) Transit Source – A translated copy of an original manuscript.
(B) Primary Source – A biography written 100 years after the subject's death.
(C) Secondary Source – An eyewitness account of a battle.
(D) Original Source – A Wikipedia article about a historical event.

25. The study of history is considered a 'Social Science' because it:
(A) uses mathematical models to predict future events.
(B) focuses exclusively on the artistic achievements of past cultures.
(C) systematically studies human society and social relationships in the past.
(D) can be conducted without any form of bias or interpretation.

26. Which of the following is an example of 'Intellectual Dishonesty' in history writing, aside from plagiarism?
(A) Deliberately misrepresenting or ignoring evidence that contradicts one's thesis.
(B) Citing a source incorrectly due to a typographical error.
(C) Revising one's hypothesis in light of new evidence.
(D) Using imagination to fill minor gaps in a narrative.

27. Read the following statements regarding historical periods and select the correct option.
Statement I : Church historiography during the medieval period often interpreted historical events as manifestations of God's will.
Statement II : The Renaissance marked a shift in history writing towards a more secular and human-centric perspective.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

28. The 'Positive School' of historical writing is associated with the belief that:
(A) History should be written with a focus on progress and positive achievements.
(B) Historical knowledge can be objective and scientific, based on verifiable facts.
(C) History has no discernible pattern or meaning.
(D) Historical narratives are purely subjective constructions.

29. What is the primary function of a 'hypothesis' in historical research?
(A) It is the final, unchangeable conclusion of the research.
(B) It is a list of all sources to be consulted.
(C) It is a provisional explanation or argument that guides the investigation.
(D) It is a summary of an already published work.

30. Consider the following statements about Leopold von Ranke's approach to history:
I. He rejected the use of archival documents as unreliabl(E)
II. He believed history should be judgmental and serve moral lessons.
III. He is credited with establishing history as an independent academic disciplin(E)
IV. His motto was to write history "as it actually was" (wie es eigentlich gewesen).
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) III and IV only
(C) I, II and III only
(D) II and IV only

31. A scholar is analyzing the grammar, language, and style of a medieval manuscript to determine if it is a later forgery. This process is an example of:
(A) External Criticism
(B) Synthesis
(C) Hypothesis formulation
(D) Note taking

32. The main argument of Oswald Spengler in his work 'The Decline of the West' is an example of:
(A) Challenge and Response Theory
(B) Cyclical Theory of History
(C) Scientific Materialism
(D) Post-Modernist Deconstruction

33. Which of the following is the best description of a 'secondary source'?
(A) An artifact or document created at the time of the event being studied.
(B) An interpretation or analysis of primary sources, created after the event.
(C) A fictional account based on a historical event.
(D) An oral history interview with a participant.

34. The impact of the Renaissance on history writing included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) A return to a cyclical view of history as found in early Greek texts.
(B) A greater emphasis on human agency rather than divine will.
(C) The development of philology and source criticism.
(D) A renewed interest in the classical histories of Greece and Rome.

35. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Term)
P. Heuristics

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54. A historian finds a diary. They first verify the paper, ink, and handwriting to ensure it is from the correct period. This is an act of _____. Then, they read the content, checking it against other known facts to assess its reliability. This is an act of _____.
(A) Synthesis; Heuristics
(B) External Criticism; Internal Criticism
(C) Internal Criticism; External Criticism
(D) Heuristics; Synthesis

55. Consider the following statements related to thesis and assignment writing in history:
I. A clear and arguable thesis statement is essential.
II. Proper citation through footnotes and a bibliography is mandatory.
III. The use of primary sources is generally discouraged in favour of secondary sources.
IV. Intellectual honesty requires acknowledging all sources of information and ideas.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II and IV only
(C) III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

56. Post-modernism in history is often associated with which of the following ideas?
(A) The "deconstruction" of historical narratives
(B) The "end of history"
(C) The "clash of civilizations"
(D) The "scientific" certainty of historical facts

57. Read the following statements regarding Marxist theory and select the correct option.
Statement I : Karl Marx's theory of history is a form of economic determinism.
Statement II : According to Marx, the "superstructure" (culture, politics, religion) is fundamentally shaped by the "base" (the mode of production).
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

58. The study of coins from the past is called:
(A) Numismatics
(B) Epigraphy
(C) Palaeography
(D) Genealogy

59. The 'Berlin Revolution in History Writing' is primarily associated with:
(A) The French Annales School
(B) The introduction of post-modernist ideas
(C) The rise of Marxist historiography
(D) The development of professional, seminar-based historical training

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60. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Concept)
P. Bias
Q. Hypothesis
R. Synthesis
S. Auxiliary Science
List II: (Description)
1. A provisional thesis to be tested
2. Palaeography
3. A preconceived notion influencing a historian
4. Creation of a coherent narrative
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

61. What is the most significant aspect of "recent trends of Indian history"?
(A) A complete rejection of all colonial-era historiography.
(B) A return to purely political and dynastic narratives.
(C) An increasing focus on social, economic, and cultural history from subaltern perspectives.
(D) The exclusive use of literary sources.

62. Which of the following does NOT represent a form of 'intellectual dishonesty' in history writing?
(A) Fabricating sources or data.
(B) Intentionally omitting evidence that contradicts the thesis.
(C) Presenting a translation as the original text without acknowledgement.
(D) Citing a source after paraphrasing its main argument.

63. The core idea of Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory is that cultures:

44. The Marxist philosophy of history posits that the primary engine of historical change is:
(A) The creative genius of great individuals.
(B) The conflict between economic classes.
(C) The struggle between different civilizations.
(D) The response of societies to environmental challenges.

45. Arrange the following historiographical developments in chronological order:
1. Post-Modernist critique of history
2. Enlightenment historiography
3. Ranke's 'Berlin Revolution'
4. Medieval Church historiography
Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence?
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

46. What distinguishes 'history' from the 'past'?
(A) There is no difference; the two terms are interchangeable.
(B) The 'past' refers to ancient times, while 'history' refers to the modern era.
(C) 'History' is fiction, while the 'past' is fact.
(D) The 'past' includes all events that have happened, while 'history' is the interpreted record of those events.

47. A bibliography in a thesis is a list of:
(A) All the sources consulted by the author, whether cited or not.
(B) Only the primary sources used.
(C) Only the sources directly quoted in the text.
(D) The chapter headings of the thesis.

48. The concept of historical 'imagination' is best described as:
(A) The invention of fictional events and characters.
(B) The empathetic ability to reconstruct the past and understand the perspectives of historical actors.
(C) The complete avoidance of any interpretation in historical writing.
(D) The use of statistical data to predict historical trends.

49. Which of the following is a major critique of Toynbee's 'Challenge and Response' theory?
(A) It focuses too much on economic factors.
(B) It is overly deterministic in its application of the challenge-response formula.
(C) It denies the existence of civilizations altogether.
(D) It is based entirely on primary sources without any synthesis.

50. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The selection of a research topic is a critical step that influences the entire course of a historical inquiry.
Reason (R) : A topic that is too broad cannot be managed within a limited timeframe, while a topic that is too narrow may lack sufficient sources.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

51. "Positive" and "Negative" schools of historical writing primarily refer to debates in the 19th century concerning:
(A) The moral quality of historical events.
(B) The political alignment of historians.
(C) The possibility of achieving objective, scientific knowledge in history.
(D) The cyclical versus linear nature of history.

52. Roman historiography, as seen in the works of Livy and Tacitus, is often characterized by its:
(A) Focus on statistical data and economic analysis.
(B) Complete objectivity and detachment from Roman politics.
(C) Rejection of narrative and storytelling.
(D) Strong moral and patriotic purpose.

53. The process of evaluating a historical source to understand its meaning, context, and the author's intent is known as:
(A) Heuristics
(B) External Criticism
(C) Internal Criticism or Positive Criticism
(D) Bibliography compilation

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CHAPTER 10

Historical Method, Research, Methodology and Historiography

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1. Which of the following best defines the 'scope of history'?
(A) The study of only political events and rulers of the past.
(B) The chronological record of all past human actions, thoughts, and experiences.
(C) The exclusive analysis of economic systems in ancient civilizations.
(D) The fictional retelling of past stories for entertainment.

2. Arrange the following historians or philosophers in chronological order of their major contributions:
1. Arnold Joseph Toynbee
2. Herodotus
3. Leopold von Ranke
4. Karl Marx

Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence?
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

3. Which of the following is a fundamental challenge to achieving complete objectivity in history?
(A) The abundance of primary sources.
(B) The use of scientific dating methods like carbon-14.
(C) The historian's own personal beliefs, values, and cultural background.
(D) The mandatory requirement for peer review in academic publishing.

4. In historical research, the term 'heuristics' refers to the process of:
(A) Synthesizing gathered information into a narrative.
(B) Critically evaluating the authenticity of a source.
(C) Formulating a central research question or hypothesis.
(D) Discovering, finding, and gathering historical sources and evidence.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the importance of history:
I. It helps in understanding the origin and evolution of present-day problems.
II. It provides a sense of identity to societies and nations.
III. It offers lessons from the past to guide future actions.
IV. It serves as a repository of human memory and experienc(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II and III only
(C) II, III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

6. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Bias in history writing is an unavoidable element that historians must acknowledge and manage.
Statement II : A historian's selection of topic, sources, and emphasis is invariably influenced by their perspective.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

7. Which of the following is NOT considered an auxiliary science of history?
(A) Epigraphy
(B) Numismatics
(C) Palaeography
(D) Astrology

(A) Organisms with a lifespan of birth, growth, and decay.
(B) Societies that evolve linearly toward a state of perfection.
(C) Cultures shaped primarily by underlying economic and social forces.
(D) Groups that develop by responding to specific environmental challenges.

64. A key impact of the Renaissance on history writing was the development of 'philology', which aided in:
(A) The creation of grand historical theories.
(B) The critical analysis of texts and detection of forgeries like the 'Donation of Constantine'.
(C) The writing of history for purely moralistic purposes.
(D) The study of economic data from the past.

65. Consider the following statements about historical sources:
I. Primary sources are always more reliable than secondary sources.
II. A secondary source can be a primary source for a historian studying the author of that sourc(E)
III. An original source is one that has not been altered or copie(D)
IV. Data collection involves only finding primary sources.
V. A transit source is a type of secondary sourc(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and IV only
(B) II, III and V only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, IV and V only

66. The debate over whether history is a science, an art, or a social science revolves around its:
(A) Subject matter, methodology, and the nature of its conclusions.
(B) Popularity among the general public.
(C) Chronological starting point.
(D) Geographical focus.

67. Which of the following is the best example of a historian using 'imagination' responsibly?
(A) Inventing dialogue for a historical figure to make the narrative more exciting.
(B) Creating a fictional character to witness a key historical event.
(C) Using available evidence to empathetically reconstruct the mental world and motivations of people in the past.
(D) Ignoring sources that are difficult to understand.

68. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Note taking is a crucial skill in historical research.
Reason (R) : It allows a researcher to systematically record information from sources, along with their own thoughts and references, for later use in synthesis and writing.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

69. The main purpose of a "Bibliography" in an academic work is different from "References" or "Footnotes" in that it:
(A) includes only sources that were directly quoted.
(B) provides supplementary information or asides to the main text.
(C) lists all works consulted by the author, providing a fuller picture of the research background.
(D) is placed at the beginning of the book.

70. Arrange the following stages of the historical research method in their correct logical sequence:
1. Synthesis and Presentation
2. Criticism of Sources (External and Internal)
3. Heuristics (Collection of Sources)
4. Formulation of a Hypothesis
Which of the following represents the correct logical sequence?
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 3, 4, 2, 1
(C) 4, 2, 3, 1
(D) 3, 2, 4, 1

71. A historian arguing that the French Revolution was the inevitable outcome of class struggle

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(D) Whether history is more interesting than physics or literature.

129. The beginnings of Western historical writing, characterized by rational inquiry into human events, are traditionally traced to:
(A) The Roman Empire
(B) Medieval Monasteries
(C) Ancient Greece
(D) The Renaissance Papacy

130. Consider the following statements about historical methodology:
I. Heuristics is the search for sources.
II. External criticism tests the authenticity of a sourc(E)
III. Internal criticism evaluates the credibility of the content.
IV. Synthesis involves creating a narrative from the evaluated facts.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II and III only
(C) II, III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

131. The main characteristic of 'Roman historiography' was its:
(A) Emphasis on objectivity and scientific analysis.
(B) Focus on divine intervention in human affairs.
(C) Moral and didactic purpose, often with a patriotic slant.
(D) Rejection of narrative in favor of statistical tables.

132. Read the following statements regarding research methodology and select the correct option.
Statement I : The selection of a topic is a crucial initial step in historical research.
Statement II : A well-chosen topic should be manageable, have sufficient sources, and be of interest to the researcher.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

133. The 'Berlin Revolution in History Writing' refers to the changes initiated by:
(A) Karl Marx
(B) Oswald Spengler
(C) Arnold Toynbee
(D) Leopold von Ranke

134. A 'transit source' in historical research is one that is:
(A) The original document itself.
(B) An interpretation of the original document.
(C) A copy or translation of an original document.
(D) An oral testimony.

135. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Term)
P. Study of coins
Q. Study of inscriptions
R. Study of ancient scripts
S. Study of family lineage
List II: (Auxiliary Science)
1. Epigraphy
2. Genealogy
3. Numismatics
4. Palaeography
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

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136. The Marxist philosophy of history is also known as:
(A) Cyclical Materialism
(B) Scientific Materialism or Historical Materialism
(C) Challenge and Response Materialism
(D) Positive Materialism

137. Which of the following best describes the 'scope and importance of history'?
(A) It is important only for understanding wars and diplomacy.
(B) It encompasses all aspects of human past and is vital for understanding the present.
(C) Its scope is limited to events before the 20th century.
(D) Its importance is purely for entertainment and storytelling.

(D) II, III and IV only

81. A 'Thesis' in the context of academic writing is:
(A) A summary of a book.
(B) A long research paper or dissertation presenting an original argument.
(C) A collection of footnotes.
(D) The act of copying another's work.

82. The 'Negative School' of historical writing was skeptical about:
(A) The ability of history to be a true science.
(B) The importance of economic factors.
(C) The existence of 'great men' in history.
(D) The value of primary sources.

83. According to Arnold Toynbee, a civilization enters a period of decline when:
(A) it is conquered by a technologically superior civilization.
(B) it has exhausted its natural resources.
(C) its "creative minority" loses its creative power and becomes a "dominant minority".
(D) its economic system collapses due to class conflict.

84. Read the following statements regarding Indian historiography and select the correct option.
Statement I : Recent trends in Indian historiography have included a focus on environmental history and gender history.
Statement II : Such trends broaden the scope of history beyond traditional political and military narratives.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

85. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Historian/Thinker)
P. Oswald Spengler
Q. Karl Marx
R. Herodotus
S. Leopold von Ranke
List II: (Associated Concept/Work)
1. "The Histories"
2. "The Decline of the West"
3. "Scientific Materialism"
4. "Berlin Revolution"
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

86. What is the primary value of studying 'Regional History'?
(A) It proves the superiority of one region over another.
(B) It provides a more granular and diverse understanding that challenges monolithic national histories.
(C) It is easier to write because the sources are limited.
(D) It focuses only on the modern history of a particular area.

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87. Which of the following is NOT a valid purpose for using a 'footnote' or 'endnote' in history writing?
(A) To cite the source of a quotation or data.
(B) To provide a cross-reference to another part of the text.
(C) To offer a brief historiographical discussion that would disrupt the flow of the main text.
(D) To add a personal, non-academic opinion or anecdote.

88. The historical method of 'Heuristics' is primarily concerned with:
(A) Discovery
(B) Writing
(C) Interpretation
(D) Criticism

89. Which statement best reflects the post-modernist view on 'objectivity' in history?
(A) Objectivity is fully attainable through rigorous scientific methods.
(B) Objectivity was achieved by historians in the 19th century but has since been lost.
(C) Objectivity is a desirable but ultimately unreachable goal, as all history is a subjective narrative.
(D) Objectivity is irrelevant to the study of history.

90. Consider the following characteristics of historical writing:
I. Focus on divine will and providenc(E)
II. A moral and didactic purpos(E)

110. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (School of Thought)
P. Post-Modernism
Q. Marxism
R. Rankean School
S. Cyclical Theory (Spengler)
List II: (Core Idea)
1. History is driven by class conflict.
2. Cultures are like organisms with a fixed life-span.
3. Historical narratives are subjective "texts".
4. History should be based on objective analysis of primary sources.
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

111. 'Intellectual dishonesty' in history is a broader term than plagiarism and includes:
(A) Disagreeing with a famous historian.
(B) The deliberate manipulation or fabrication of evidence.
(C) Making a spelling mistake in a footnote.
(D) Choosing a popular topic for research.

112. The study of history as a 'Social Science' emphasizes its role in:
(A) creating beautiful narratives.
(B) understanding the evolution and functioning of human societies.
(C) providing moral lessons.
(D) documenting the lives of kings and queens exclusively.

113. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : A historian's work is never truly finished, as history is constantly being rewritten.
Reason (R) : New sources are discovered, new methodologies are developed, and new questions are asked of the past by subsequent generations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

114. The 'Negative school' of historical thought can be seen as a reaction against the claims of the:
(A) Marxist school
(B) Post-modernist school
(C) Church historiography
(D) Positive school

115. Consider the following statements about the process of historical research:
I. Selecting a topic is the final step.
II. Heuristics precedes criticism.
III. Synthesis is the process of weaving facts into a narrativ(E)
IV. A hypothesis is a fixed conclusion, not a proposition.
V. Bibliography is compiled after the research is complet(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I, II, and IV
(B) II, III, and V
(C) I, IV, and V
(D) II, IV, and V

116. The impact of the Renaissance on history writing is best characterized by a shift from:
(A) Secular concerns to divine providence.
(B) Divine providence to human agency.
(C) Human agency to economic determinism.
(D) Critical analysis to uncritical storytelling.

117. 'Recent trends in Indian history' include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The study of subaltern groups.
(B) A focus on gender and women's history.
(C) The exclusive focus on national political leaders.
(D) The growth of environmental history.

118. Which statement best represents the dilemma of 'Objectivity and Bias' in history?
(A) Since complete objectivity is impossible, all historical accounts are equally valid.
(B) Historians must strive for objectivity while acknowledging and controlling their own biases.
(C) Only historians with no personal opinions can write good history.
(D) Bias is a positive tool that makes historical writing more interesting.

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West', Spengler compares cultures to biological organisms which are born, mature, grow old, and die.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

101. The first step of the historical method, 'Heuristics', involves:
(A) Writing the final narrative.
(B) The critical evaluation of evidence.
(C) Forming a hypothesis.
(D) The discovery and collection of sources.

102. What is the fundamental difference between a primary and a secondary source?
(A) Primary sources are created during the period under study, while secondary sources are created after.
(B) Primary sources are always written, while secondary sources can be objects.
(C) Primary sources are objective, while secondary sources are biased.
(D) Primary sources are found in archives, while secondary sources are found in libraries.

103. 'Church Historiography' of the medieval period typically viewed history as:
(A) A cyclical process of growth and decay.
(B) A logical progression of class struggle.
(C) A linear process guided by divine providence towards salvation.
(D) A random and meaningless sequence of events.

104. The act of presenting another person's ideas or words as one's own without giving credit is known as:
(A) Synthesis
(B) Heuristics
(C) Criticism
(D) Plagiarism

105. Consider the following statements about the role of 'Imagination' in History:
I. It allows the historian to invent facts where evidence is missing.
II. It helps in forming a hypothesis about the past.
III. It enables the historian to empathize with people of the past.
IV. It is used to create a readable and coherent narrative from fragmented evidenc(E)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II, and III
(C) II, III and IV only
(D) I and IV only

106. Read the following statements regarding Rankean history and select the correct option.
Statement I : Ranke's insistence on "wie es eigentlich gewesen" (how it actually was) reflects the core principle of the Positive school of historical writing.
Statement II : The Positive school believed that by using scientific methods and primary sources, historians could achieve objective truth.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

107. The main purpose of creating a 'hypothesis' at the beginning of a research project is to:
(A) Provide a definitive answer to the research question.
(B) List all the sources that will be used.
(C) Summarize the findings of the research.
(D) Give focus and direction to the research process.

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108. The 'Challenge and Response Theory' was propounded by:
(A) Karl Marx
(B) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
(C) Oswald Spengler
(D) Leopold von Ranke

109. Which of the following is the most accurate definition of 'thesis writing' in an academic context?
(A) A brief summary of a historical event.
(B) The process of taking notes from various sources.
(C) The systematic presentation of original research that makes a specific argument.
(D) The act of compiling a bibliography.

between the bourgeoisie and the aristocracy is most likely influenced by:
(A) Rankean positivism
(B) Toynbee's Challenge and Response theory
(C) Spengler's cyclical theory
(D) Marxist philosophy of history

72. The study of ancient writing systems and scripts is known as:
(A) Palaeography
(B) Historiography
(C) Numismatics
(D) Archaeology

73. The primary problem with "intellectual dishonesty" in history writing is that it:
(A) is difficult for readers to detect.
(B) often leads to very popular but inaccurate books.
(C) violates the fundamental scholarly commitment to seeking and presenting truth.
(D) slows down the process of writing a thesis.

74. Identify the statement that is NOT a characteristic of post-modernist thought in history.
(A) It seeks to establish a single, all-encompassing grand narrative for human history.
(B) It questions the possibility of ultimate objectivity.
(C) It emphasizes that all history is a form of narrative construction.
(D) It is skeptical of universal truth claims.

75. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Renaissance period witnessed a significant shift in the focus and method of history writing compared to the medieval era.
Reason (R) : Renaissance humanism promoted a focus on human affairs and a critical approach to sources, moving away from the providential and faith-based historiography of the Church.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

76. "History is a science, no less and no more." This famous quote by J.B. Bury reflects the viewpoint of the:
(A) Post-modernist school
(B) Positive school of historical writing
(C) Cyclical school of history
(D) Marxist school of history

77. Which of the following is the best way for a historian to deal with their inherent bias?
(A) To deny that any bias exists in their work.
(B) To write history only about topics they have no opinion on.
(C) To acknowledge their perspective and be transparent about their methodology.
(D) To present only facts without any interpretation.

78. Which of these is an example of 'synthesis' in writing a history of the Mughal empire?
(A) Translating the historical text of the Akbarnama from Persian to English.
(B) Authenticating the physical age of a specific manuscript of the Baburnama.
(C) Collecting and cataloging various coins minted during the reign of Aurangzeb.
(D) Combining chronicles, coins, and architecture to explain Akbar's religious policy.

79. The term 'historiography' refers to:
(A) The study of the history of history writing.
(B) The process of writing history.
(C) The collection of historical sources.
(D) The theory that history moves in cycles.

80. Consider the following statements about 'Causation in History':
I. It involves identifying a single, definitive cause for every event.
II. Historians distinguish between long-term and short-term causes.
III. The concept of causation implies an element of determinism, which is debated among historians.
IV. Identifying causes is less important than simply describing what happene(D)
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) II and III only
(B) I and IV only
(C) I, II and III only

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119. A historian who analyses the changing modes of production and their impact on society is most likely working within which framework?
(A) Toynbee's Challenge-Response
(B) Rankean Positivism
(C) Marxist Historiography
(D) Spengler's Cyclical Theory

120. Arrange the following thinkers in the chronological order of their major works:
1. Karl Marx
2. Leopold von Ranke
3. Arnold J. Toynbee
4. Augustine of Hippo

Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence?
(A) 4, 2, 1, 3
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 1, 2, 3
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

121. The term 'data collection' in historical research refers to:
(A) The process of gathering evidence from primary and secondary sources.
(B) The final presentation of the historical narrative.
(C) The formulation of the central research question.
(D) The criticism and evaluation of sources for authenticity.

122. A key feature of 'Post-modernism in history' is the critique of:
(A) Using primary sources.
(B) The 'grand narrative' or 'metanarrative'.
(C) Writing in a clear and accessible style.
(D) Studying regional history.

123. The significance of 'notes taking' in the research process is that it:
(A) helps organize vast amounts of information and track their sources.
(B) is a substitute for reading the sources themselves.
(C) is the final step in writing a thesis.
(D) guarantees the complete objectivity of the researcher.

124. 'Causation and Imagination' are two concepts in history that are:
(A) Mutually exclusive; a historian uses one or the other.
(B) Both essential; causation provides the analytical framework, and imagination helps reconstruct the human element.
(C) Unimportant for modern historical practice.
(D) The former is scientific, while the latter is a form of intellectual dishonesty.

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125. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Plagiarism is considered a serious act of intellectual dishonesty in academic circles.
Reason (R) : It undermines the principles of originality, intellectual property, and the scholarly convention of acknowledging one's sources.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

126. The 'Cyclical Theory of History' is most famously associated with:
(A) Leopold von Ranke
(B) Oswald Spengler
(C) Karl Marx
(D) Arnold Toynbee

127. In the context of research, what is the role of 'footnotes' and a 'bibliography'?
(A) They are decorative elements to make the text look more academic.
(B) They provide evidence of the research undertaken and allow readers to verify the sources.
(C) They list the names of other historians who agree with the author.
(D) They are used to hide the author's personal biases.

128. What is the central question in the debate on "History a Science, Arts or a Social Science"?
(A) Whether history should be taught in universities.
(B) The nature of historical knowledge and the methods used to obtain it.
(C) How much historians should be paid.

III. Events interpreted as part of a universal Christian story.
IV. Critical use of secular primary sources.
V. Emphasis on human agency.
Which of the above are characteristic of Medieval Church Historiography?
(A) IV and V only
(B) I, II and III only
(C) II, IV and V only
(D) I, III and V only

91. The idea that history is driven by the 'challenge' of the environment and the 'response' of a society is central to the work of:
(A) Leopold von Ranke
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Oswald Spengler
(D) Arnold Joseph Toynbee

92. A historian writing a biography of Jawaharlal Nehru uses his letters, speeches, and autobiography. These sources are considered:
(A) Secondary sources
(B) Primary sources
(C) Tertiary sources
(D) Transit sources

93. The "Berlin Revolution" in history writing, led by Von Ranke, professionalized history by emphasizing:
(A) Narrative flair and dramatic storytelling above all else.
(B) A philosophical, cyclical interpretation of the past.
(C) Rigorous training, seminar-based teaching, and critical analysis of archival sources.
(D) The need for history to serve the immediate goals of the state.

94. The Marxist concept of 'Scientific Materialism' claims that history:
(A) is random and unpredictable.
(B) is shaped by the will of great leaders.
(C) is a spiritual journey of humanity.
(D) progresses through identifiable stages based on the mode of production.

95. Arrange the following sources for the history of Mughal India in chronological order of their creation:
1. Akbarnama by Abul Fazl
2. Tuzuk-i-Baburi (Baburnama) by Babur
3. Muntakhab-ul-Lubab by Khafi Khan
4. Padshahnama by Abdul Hamid Lahori
Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence?
(A) 2, 1, 4, 3
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

96. "Objectivity and Bias in History" are concepts that deal with:
(A) The need for historians to write entertaining stories.
(B) The historian's ability to present a completely value-free account of the past.
(C) The use of scientific equipment in historical research.
(D) The physical preservation of historical artifacts.

97. An 'original source' is best defined as:
(A) any source written in its original language.
(B) a source in its pristine, unaltered condition from the time of its creation.
(C) the first secondary source written on a topic.
(D) a source that offers a novel or creative interpretation.

98. The significance of 'Regional History' has grown in recent decades because it:
(A) Is less controversial than national history.
(B) Provides a counter-narrative to elitist, top-down historical accounts.
(C) Requires fewer research skills than other types of history.
(D) Focuses exclusively on the political history of a small area.

99. Which of the following is an example of an 'auxiliary science' to history?
(A) Sociology
(B) Political Science
(C) Epigraphy (the study of inscriptions)
(D) Philosophy

100. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : According to Oswald Spengler, every culture has a pre-ordained life cycle.
Reason (R) : In his book 'The Decline of the

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138. The process of 'presentation' in the historical method refers to:
(A) The initial collection of raw data.
(B) The writing of the final historical account in a clear and coherent manner.
(C) The critical analysis of a source's authenticity.
(D) The formulation of a research hypothesis.

139. Which of the following is an incorrect pair?
(A) Arnold Toynbee – 'A Study of History'
(B) Oswald Spengler – 'The Decline of the West'
(C) Karl Marx – 'The Communist Manifesto'
(D) Leopold von Ranke – 'The Annales School'

140. Consider the following actions by a historian:
I. Fabricating a primary source to support an argument.
II. Paraphrasing an idea from another scholar and providing a proper footnot(E)
III. Intentionally ignoring evidence that contradicts one's own thesis.
IV. Using a quotation from a secondary source and attributing it to the original primary source without checking.
V. Correcting a factual error in a subsequent edition of one's book.
Which of the above actions constitute 'Intellectual Dishonesty'?
(A) I, III, and IV only
(B) II and V only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) I and III only

141. The main thesis of 'Challenge and Response Theory' is that civilizations grow when they:
(A) successfully overcome a specific difficulty or threat.
(B) follow a pre-determined biological life cycle.
(C) experience a revolution from the proletariat class.
(D) are ruled by a philosopher-king.

142. A book written by a modern historian about the reign of Ashoka is an example of a:
(A) Primary Source
(B) Secondary Source
(C) Original Source
(D) Transit Source

143. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The study of Regional History has gained prominence in Indian Historiography.
Reason (R) : It helps in constructing a more inclusive and diverse picture of the past, challenging the Delhi-centric or national-level master narratives.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

144. The 'Positive school of historical writing' believed that:
(A) History should only focus on positive events.
(B) Historical knowledge could be established with scientific certainty.
(C) All historical narratives are subjective fictions.
(D) History moves in unending cycles of decline.

145. A historian studying the life of a peasant in medieval Europe has very few documents written by peasants themselves. To reconstruct their world, the historian must rely on court records, tax rolls, and archaeological finds. This reconstruction heavily involves historical:
(A) Imagination and Synthesis
(B) Certainty
(C) Plagiarism
(D) Dogmatism

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146. Which of the following is a defining characteristic of Post-modernism in history?
(A) A belief in the inevitable progress of humanity.
(B) A skepticism towards grand, universal theories of history (metanarratives).
(C) An insistence on history as a pure science.
(D) A focus exclusively on political and diplomatic history.

147. Read the following statements regarding historical analysis and select the correct option.
Statement I : Heuristics is the process of critically evaluating historical sources.
Statement II : Criticism in history is divided into external (authenticity) and internal

(credibility) analysis.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

148. The Renaissance had a major impact on history writing by:
(A) Reinforcing the belief in divine intervention.
(B) Promoting the critical study of sources and a focus on human affairs.
(C) Discouraging the study of classical Greek and Roman authors.
(D) Establishing the cyclical theory of history as the dominant model.

149. The proper use of 'references, footnotes and bibliography' in a thesis primarily serves to:
(A) Increase the page count of the document.
(B) Demonstrate intellectual honesty and provide the basis for one's arguments.
(C) Confuse the reader with extensive details.
(D) List the author's friends and colleagues.

150. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Karl Marx proposed a materialist interpretation of history.
Reason (R) : He argued that the economic base, or the mode of production, determines the social, political, and intellectual superstructure of a society.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

151. "History is past politics, and politics is present history." This statement emphasizes a view of history that is primarily:
(A) Economic
(B) Social
(C) Political
(D) Cultural

152. According to Oswald Spengler, Western civilization is in which stage of its life cycle?
(A) Youth and growth
(B) Maturity and creative peak
(C) Old age and decline
(D) Rebirth and renewal

153. What distinguishes "assignment writing" from "thesis writing" in history?
(A) Assignments never require formal citations, whereas theses always require them.
(B) Theses involve original research, while assignments are based on literature.
(C) Thesis writing is considered a sophisticated form of academic intellectual dishonesty.
(D) There is no substantive difference between assignment writing and thesis writing.

154. The 'Negative' school of thought in history questioned the claims of the 'Positive' school regarding:
(A) The importance of great men.
(B) The validity of primary sources.
(C) The attainability of complete objectivity and scientific certainty.
(D) The cyclical nature of historical events.

155. Consider the following statements about historical research:
I. A hypothesis is a tentative statement that guides research.
II. Primary sources are firsthand accounts of an event.
III. Secondary sources analyze and interpret primary sources.
IV. Plagiarism involves using another's work without attribution.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II and III only
(C) II, III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

156. The phrase "wie es eigentlich gewesen" ("how it actually was") is the famous motto of:
(A) Karl Marx
(B) Leopold von Ranke
(C) Arnold Toynbee
(D) Michel Foucault

157. Which of the following is NOT a recent trend in Indian historiography?
(A) History from below (Subaltern Studies)
(B) Environmental history
(C) An exclusive focus on the reigns of emperors

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and kings.
(D) Gender history

158. The process of combining verified information from various sources into a coherent historical narrative is called:
(A) Heuristics
(B) Criticism
(C) Synthesis
(D) Hypothesis

159. A key problem with a research topic that is too broad is that it:
(A) lacks sufficient primary sources.
(B) becomes superficial and unmanageable.
(C) is of no interest to other historians.
(D) cannot be plagiarized easily.

160. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Type of Historiography)
P. Greek Historiography
Q. Roman Historiography
R. Church Historiography
S. Renaissance Historiography
List II: (Key Characteristic)
1. Focus on divine providence
2. Emphasis on humanism and secular causes
3. Beginnings of rational inquiry
4. Moral and patriotic purpose
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

161. A historian who believes that history should be written like a literary narrative, focusing on storytelling and character, is treating history as an:
(A) Art
(B) Science
(C) Auxiliary Science
(D) Exact Science

162. The 'Cyclical Theory' of Oswald Spengler is deterministic because it suggests that:
(A) civilizations have free will to choose their destiny.
(B) the rise and fall of civilizations follows an inevitable, pre-set pattern.
(C) economic factors alone determine the course of history.
(D) history has no pattern at all.

163. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Post-modernism has had a profound impact on the theory of history writing.
Reason (R) : It challenges traditional notions of truth, objectivity, and the authority of the historian, emphasizing the narrative and linguistic nature of historical texts.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

164. What is the fundamental ethical problem with plagiarism in historical writing?
(A) It is a form of theft and misrepresentation that undermines the scholarly pursuit of knowledge.
(B) It often results in a poorly written narrative.
(C) It is against university regulations.
(D) It makes the bibliography shorter than it should be.

165. Consider the following thinkers and their associated ideas:
I. Toynbee - Challenge and Response
II. Spengler - Cyclical Theory
III. Marx - Scientific Materialism
IV. Ranke - Emphasis on primary sources
V. Herodotus - Father of History
Which of the above pairings are correct?
(A) I, II and III only
(B) II, III, IV and V only
(C) I, II, III and IV only
(D) I, II, III, IV and V

166. A key difference between 'History' and 'Chronicle' is that:
(A) A chronicle simply lists events, while history seeks to interpret and explain them.
(B) A history simply lists events, while a chronicle interprets them.
(C) Chronicles are always unbiased, whereas histories are not.
(D) History deals with ancient times, and

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226. The argument that cultures and civilizations pass through predictable stages of growth and decay, much like a living organism, is central to:
(A) Marxist theory
(B) Post-modernism
(C) Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory
(D) Ranke's scientific history

227. In the context of thesis writing, what is the primary purpose of 'note taking'?
(A) To practice one's handwriting.
(B) To systematically record information and its source for later retrieval and synthesis.
(C) To create a rough draft of the final thesis.
(D) To fulfill a procedural requirement without any real utility.

228. Which of the following would be an example of "internal criticism" of a document?
(A) Verifying the age of the paper and ink.
(B) Identifying the author's potential bias and purpose for writing.
(C) Deciphering the handwriting.
(D) Checking if the document is an original or a copy.

229. The significance of 'Regional History' lies in its ability to:
(A) offer perspectives that are often missed in overarching national narratives.
(B) prove that national history is irrelevant.
(C) be completed with less research than other forms of history.
(D) focus exclusively on modern political events in a small area.

230. Consider the following actions related to historical writing:
I. Using a phrase from a book without quotation marks or citation.
II. Summarizing an argument from an article and adding a footnote to credit the author.
III. Deliberately misquoting a source to support one's own argument.
IV. Presenting another student's old assignment as one's own work.
Which of the above actions constitute plagiarism or intellectual dishonesty?
(A) II only
(B) I and III only
(C) I, III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

231. The debate on whether history is a science, art, or social science centers on:
(A) the age of the historical periods being studied.
(B) its methodology, purpose, and the nature of its truth claims.
(C) the nationality of the historian.
(D) its popularity with the public.

232. 'Original sources' and 'transit sources' are distinguished by:
(A) The specific linguistic language in which they were originally written.
(B) Whether the source is in its first state or transmitted by copies.
(C) The specific physical archive or library where they are stored.
(D) Their thematic relevance or significance to the research topic.

233. The primary contribution of Leopold von Ranke to historiography was his:
(A) formulation of the cyclical theory of history.
(B) emphasis on a rigorous, evidence-based methodology centered on primary sources.
(C) development of the "Challenge and Response" theory.
(D) post-modernist deconstruction of historical narratives.

234. In academic writing, a 'bibliography' is:
(A) A list of the author's other publications.
(B) An alphabetical list of sources consulted for the work.
(C) A short biography of the author.
(D) A list of suggested further reading for the public.

235. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Phase of Historical Method)
P. Heuristics
Q. External Criticism
R. Internal Criticism
S. Synthesis
List II: (Activity)
1. Assessing the credibility and meaning of a source's content.
2. Weaving evidence into a coherent narrativ(E)

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177. The term 'data collection' for a historian primarily involves:
(A) Conducting laboratory experiments.
(B) Administering surveys to living people.
(C) Locating and gathering information from archives, libraries, and archaeological sites.
(D) Creating fictional scenarios.

178. What does "synthesis and presentation" entail in the historical method?
(A) Finding and collecting sources.
(B) Critically evaluating the authenticity of a document.
(C) Weaving the verified facts and interpretations into a coherent written narrative.
(D) Formulating the initial research question.

179. A diary written by a soldier during World War I is an example of:
(A) A primary source for the study of the war.
(B) A secondary source for the study of the war.
(C) A transit source.
(D) A historiographical essay.

180. Consider the following statements about plagiarism:
I. It is limited to copying text word-for-wor(D)
II. Paraphrasing someone else's idea without citation is also plagiarism.
III. It is considered a major breach of academic ethics.
IV. Using common knowledge, like 'World War II ended in 1945', does not require citation.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II, III and IV only
(C) I, II and III only
(D) I, III and IV only

181. The central theme of Spengler's cyclical theory is the comparison of cultures to:
(A) Biological organisms
(B) Machines
(C) Economic systems
(D) Political parties

182. Read the following statements regarding historical interpretation and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Renaissance promoted a more secular and humanistic approach to history writing.
Statement II : Medieval Church historiography viewed historical events as manifestations of a divine plan.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

183. The most important contribution of the 'Berlin Revolution in History Writing' was the:
(A) Introduction of Marxist theory.
(B) Professionalization of history through seminars and source criticism.
(C) Development of post-modernist ideas.
(D) Focus on oral history.

184. A historian who states that the 'Protestant Ethic' contributed to the rise of capitalism is making an argument about:
(A) Historical cycles
(B) Causation
(C) Source criticism
(D) Plagiarism

185. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Book)
P. A Study of History
Q. The Decline of the West
R. Das Kapital
S. The Histories
List II: (Author)
1. Karl Marx
2. Herodotus
3. Arnold J. Toynbee
4. Oswald Spengler
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

186. The main challenge to 'objectivity' in history writing comes from:
(A) The lack of historical events to study.
(B) The inherent subjectivity and cultural perspective of the historian.
(C) The difficulty of reading ancient languages.
(D) The high cost of accessing archives.

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187. The purpose of writing a research 'hypothesis' is to:
(A) present the final conclusion.
(B) provide a tentative proposition to be tested against evidence.
(C) list all the sources used in the research.
(D) criticize the work of other historians.

188. Which of the following is the best defines a 'secondary source'?
(A) A document written by an eyewitness.
(B) An analysis or interpretation of events written after they occurred, based on primary sources.
(C) A fictional novel set in a historical period.
(D) An untranslated manuscript.

189. Which of the following is NOT an example of intellectual dishonesty in history writing?
(A) Inventing a quotation and attributing it to a historical figure.
(B) Deliberately ignoring evidence that contradicts your argument.
(C) Changing your thesis based on new evidence you have discovered.
(D) Taking credit for another scholar's research without acknowledgment.

190. Consider the following historiographical approaches:
I. Emphasis on class struggle as the engine of history.
II. Belief that history is the story of liberty.
III. Idea that civilizations rise and fall in a challenge-response pattern.
IV. View of cultures as organisms with a life cycle of birth, growth, and decay.
V. Insistence on empirical verification and objectivity based on primary sources.
Which of the above describe the theories of Marx, Toynbee, and Spengler respectively?
(A) I, III, and IV only
(B) II, IV, and V only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) III, IV, and V only

191. The significance of 'regional history' lies in its ability to:
(A) Prove that one region is superior to others.
(B) Provide a more nuanced and complex understanding of a nation's past.
(C) Replace the need for national history altogether.
(D) Focus only on the geography of a region.

192. In historical methodology, 'criticism' refers to the:
(A) Act of writing a negative review of a history book.
(B) Process of evaluating sources for authenticity and reliability.
(C) Final stage of presenting the historical narrative.
(D) Initial search for historical documents.

193. The philosophy of history that holds that economic structure is the basis on which the superstructure of society is built is:
(A) Post-modernism
(B) Toynbee's theory
(C) Marxism
(D) Spengler's theory

194. Read the following statements regarding post-modernism and select the correct option.
Statement I : Post-modernism argues for a single, objective, and attainable historical truth.
Statement II : Post-modernist thinkers like Foucault and Derrida have heavily influenced contemporary historiography by questioning the nature of power, knowledge, and narrative.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

195. The difference between 'references' and a 'bibliography' is that:
(A) A bibliography is always shorter.
(B) 'References' usually lists only works cited, while a 'bibliography' can list all works consulted.
(C) There is no difference.
(D) References are for science, and bibliographies are for arts.

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196. The impact of the Renaissance on history writing included a renewed interest in:
(A) Divine providence as the primary cause of events.
(B) The models of classical Greek and Roman historians.

(C) Economic determinism.
(D) The cyclical decay of civilizations.

197. A historian stating that 'the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the trigger, but the long-term causes of WWI were militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism' is engaging in an analysis of:
(A) Heuristics
(B) Causation
(C) Plagiarism
(D) Bibliography

198. The main focus of 'Church Historiography' in medieval Europe was:
(A) To document the history of economic transactions.
(B) To narrate history as the unfolding of God's plan.
(C) To provide a rational and secular account of the past.
(D) To celebrate the achievements of non-Christian civilizations.

199. What does it mean to say history can be an 'Art'?
(A) That it is entirely fictional and not based on evidence.
(B) That it requires literary skill, imagination, and narrative ability to be presented effectively.
(C) That historians must be able to paint or sculpt.
(D) That historical truth is subjective and a matter of opinion.

200. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The distinction between primary and secondary sources is fundamental to historical research.
Reason (R) : Primary sources provide direct evidence about the past, while secondary sources offer interpretations; the historian's task is to use the former to evaluate the latter.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

201. Which of the following is the best way for a historian to choose a research topic?
(A) Choose a question that is specific, significant, and can be researched with available sources.
(B) Choose a topic so broad that it covers a whole century.
(C) Choose a topic for which no sources exist to show originality.
(D) Choose the same topic as their supervisor to make the work easier.

202. The theory which posits that civilizations go through a life-cycle of birth, growth, maturity, and decay is known as:
(A) The Marxist Theory
(B) The Challenge and Response Theory
(C) The Cyclical Theory
(D) The Post-Modernist Theory

203. 'Positive' and 'Negative' schools of historical writing were 19th-century terms referring to the debate over whether history:
(A) should focus on Europe or the rest of the world.
(B) could achieve scientific objectivity.
(C) should be optimistic or pessimistic.
(D) is driven by individuals or social forces.

204. The process of discovering, gathering, and listing potential sources for a research topic is known as:
(A) Synthesis
(B) Criticism
(C) Plagiarism
(D) Heuristics

205. Consider the following statements about the nature of history:
I. History is the study of the past.
II. Objectivity in history is easily achievabl(E)
III. Causation is a key concept for historical explanation.
IV. Imagination has no role in scientific history writing.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and III only
(B) II and IV only
(C) I, II and III only
(D) I and IV only

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chronicles deal with modern times.

167. Read the following statements regarding historical sources and select the correct option.
Statement I : The choice of a research area in history is often influenced by the availability of primary sources.
Statement II : Research on topics with no surviving primary sources is impossible to conduct using standard historical methods.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

168. The study of the past from the perspective of non-elite, marginalized groups is a central feature of:
(A) Rankean historiography
(B) Recent trends in Indian history, such as Subaltern Studies
(C) Classical Roman historiography
(D) Medieval Church historiography

169. What is the primary purpose of 'external criticism' in the historical method?
(A) To interpret the meaning of a document.
(B) To assess the credibility and biases of the author.
(C) To determine the authenticity and genuineness of the source material.
(D) To synthesize the source with other pieces of evidence.

170. Which of the following is NOT an example of an 'auxiliary science' for history?
(A) Palaeography (study of ancient writing)
(B) Numismatics (study of coins)
(C) Metaphysics (branch of philosophy)
(D) Epigraphy (study of inscriptions)

171. The 'causation' debate in history is concerned with:
(A) How to write a more engaging narrative.
(B) Identifying the multiple and complex factors that lead to historical events.
(C) Determining the exact date of a document.
(D) The physical preservation of archives.

172. A historian writing about the American Civil War who was born and raised in the southern United States must be particularly conscious of the potential for:
(A) A lack of sources.
(B) Personal and cultural bias.
(C) A chronological error.
(D) A translation mistake.

173. The Marxist interpretation of history is 'materialistic' because it:
(A) asserts that material conditions, particularly economic ones, are the foundation of society and historical change.
(B) focuses on the material artifacts found in archaeology.
(C) denies the existence of non-material ideas.
(D) argues that historians should be wealthy.

174. The idea that civilizations rise and fall based on their successful 'response' to a 'challenge' is the core of the theory proposed by:
(A) Oswald Spengler
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
(D) Leopold von Ranke

175. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The role of imagination in history is to bridge the gaps left by an incomplete historical record.
Reason (R) : A historian uses "disciplined imagination" to reconstruct the thoughts and motives of past actors in a way that is consistent with the available evidence.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

176. Which of the following is a key characteristic of the "Recent Trends of Indian History"?
(A) A move away from interdisciplinary approaches.
(B) A focus on marginalized voices and non-elite histories.
(C) A complete abandonment of political history.
(D) A return to colonial-era interpretations.

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216. A historian arguing that history is a science would emphasize:
(A) The literary quality of the narrative.
(B) The role of empathy and imagination.
(C) The use of rigorous methodology, evidence, and critical analysis.
(D) The subjective nature of all historical claims.

217. The main purpose of the 'Selection of Topic' in historical research is to:
(A) find the easiest possible subject.
(B) define a clear, manageable, and significant area for investigation.
(C) impress the research supervisor with an obscure title.
(D) choose a topic where no primary sources are available.

218. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The 'Berlin Revolution' led by Ranke professionalized the study of history.
Reason (R) : It introduced the seminar system for training historians in the critical use of primary sources and archival research.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

219. The concept of 'bias' in history refers to:
(A) The historian's preference for certain types of sources.
(B) A prejudice or perspective that can influence the interpretation of evidence.
(C) The factual errors found in a historical work.
(D) The use of footnotes and bibliography.

220. The theory that history moves in a pattern of "Challenge and Response" was developed by:
(A) Karl Marx
(B) Oswald Spengler
(C) Leopold von Ranke
(D) Arnold Joseph Toynbee

221. 'Greek historiography,' as started by writers like Herodotus, was a departure from earlier accounts because it:
(A) relied solely on myth and divine explanation.
(B) sought rational, human-centered explanations for events.
(C) was written exclusively by kings and priests.
(D) ignored the concept of cause and effect.

222. What is a 'transit source'?
(A) The final published version of a history book.
(B) A source that has been copied, translated, or transmitted through an intermediary.
(C) An original diary entry from an eyewitness.
(D) A source that is available online.

223. The function of a 'hypothesis' in a historical study is to act as a:
(A) Final conclusion.
(B) Guiding proposition for the research.
(C) Summary of sources.
(D) Bibliography.

224. Read the following statements regarding modern Indian history and select the correct option.
Statement I : Recent trends in Indian historiography show an increased interest in subaltern, gender, and environmental history.
Statement II : This shift represents a move towards a more inclusive and multi-faceted understanding of the past.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

225. Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Intellectual honesty is a cornerstone of historical scholarship.
Reason (R) : It requires the historian to represent evidence faithfully, acknowledge sources, and avoid deliberate distortion or fabrication.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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(A) Citing a source to support a factual claim.
(B) Deliberately mistranslating a foreign language source to fit a preconceived argument.
(C) Pointing out a factual error in another historian's work.
(D) Using imagination to describe the setting of a historical event based on evidence.

246. The term 'historiography' refers to:
(A) The writing of history based on sources.
(B) The study of the history of historical writing and interpretation.
(C) The art of discovering new historical sources.
(D) The preservation of historical documents in archives.

247. A 'hypothesis' in historical research is best described as a:
(A) Final conclusion.
(B) Tentative argument that guides the investigation.
(C) List of primary sources.
(D) Summary of the research findings.

248. The distinction between 'primary' and 'secondary' sources is crucial for historical research. Which of the following is a primary source?
(A) A textbook on the French Revolution.
(B) A letter written by Napoleon Bonaparte.
(C) A biography of Marie Antoinette published in 2006.
(D) A documentary film about the storming of the Bastille.

249. Which thinker is associated with the 'Berlin Revolution in History Writing' and the motto to write history 'as it actually was'?
(A) Karl Marx
(B) Arnold Toynbee
(C) Leopold von Ranke
(D) Oswald Spengler

250. Post-modernism's influence on history is characterized by a focus on:
(A) Establishing a single, authoritative narrative.
(B) The role of language, discourse, and the deconstruction of narratives.
(C) The scientific and objective nature of historical facts.
(D) The biological life cycle of civilizations.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The discipline of history, in its scope and importance, occupies a unique intellectual space, often prompting a vigorous debate regarding its fundamental nature. The question of whether history is a science, an art, or a social science is central to its methodological self-conception. Proponents of history as a science emphasize its rigorous methodology, involving systematic data collection from sources, critical evaluation, and the pursuit of objectivity, akin to scientific inquiry. Conversely, the argument for history as an art highlights the crucial role of narrative, imagination, and literary skill in synthesizing and presenting the past, making it accessible and meaningful. A third perspective situates history firmly among the social sciences, focusing on its analysis of societal structures, human behaviour in groups, and the development of overarching patterns and trends. This interdisciplinary character is further underscored by history's reliance on a range of auxiliary sciences. Disciplines such as archaeology, palaeography, numismatics, and epigraphy provide specialized tools and evidence that are indispensable for the historian to interpret sources and reconstruct the past. Thus, the importance of history lies not only in its chronicling of past events but also in its complex engagement with diverse methodologies and its symbiotic relationship with these auxiliary fields, enriching its analytical power.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what is the primary reason for considering history as a science?
(A) Its use of creative imagination and narrative.
(B) Its application of systematic methodology and critical evaluation.
(C) Its focus on societal structures and group behaviour.
(D) Its reliance on literary skill for presentation.

252. The passage suggests that the characterisation of history as an art is based on the significance of which of the following?

3. Discovering and collecting sources.
4. Verifying the authenticity of a source ((E)g., checking for forgery).

Choose the correct option:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

236. The Marxist concept of history being driven by 'scientific materialism' suggests that change is primarily caused by:
(A) spiritual awakening.
(B) the will of great individuals.
(C) developments in the material and economic base of society.
(D) random, unpredictable events.

237. The 'Renaissance and its Impact on History Writing' is best seen in the shift from:
(A) Human-centric to God-centric narratives.
(B) Providential to secular and humanistic explanations.
(C) Critical analysis to unthinking acceptance of tradition.
(D) Latin to Greek as the language of scholarship.

238. What is the most significant challenge posed by 'Post-Modernism' to traditional history?
(A) It demands that historians use more statistics.
(B) It questions the very possibility of objective historical truth.
(C) It insists that only economic history is valid.
(D) It requires all history to be written in a poetic style.

239. The most appropriate first step in 'Thesis and Assignment Writing' after selecting a topic is:
(A) Writing the conclusion.
(B) Formulating a preliminary hypothesis and conducting initial research.
(C) Compiling the final bibliography.
(D) Designing the book cover.

240. Consider the following statements regarding historiography:
I. Greek historiography began the tradition of rational inquiry.
II. Roman historiography often had a moral and patriotic purpos(E)
III. Church historiography was providential, seeing history as God's plan.
IV. Renaissance historiography revived classical models and emphasized humanism.
V. Post-modern historiography challenges the idea of a single grand narrativ(E)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I, II and III only
(B) I, II, III and IV only
(C) II, III, IV and V only
(D) I, II, III, IV and V

241. Read the following statements regarding historical objectivity and select the correct option.
Statement I : Objectivity in history is an ideal that historians strive for.
Statement II : A historian's personal values, social background, and political beliefs can introduce bias into their work.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

242. The process of analyzing a source to understand its author's motives, biases, and intended meaning is known as:
(A) Heuristics
(B) Palaeography
(C) Internal Criticism
(D) Numismatics

243. The core idea of 'causation' in history involves:
(A) establishing a definitive, single cause for every event.
(B) understanding the complex web of factors that contribute to historical change.
(C) imagining what might have happened if events were different.
(D) simply listing events in chronological order.

244. The historical philosophy of Arnold Joseph Toynbee is known as:
(A) Scientific Materialism
(B) Cyclical Theory
(C) Challenge and Response Theory
(D) Post-Modernism

245. An example of 'Intellectual Dishonesty' in history writing would be:

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206. 'Roman historiography' is best known for its:
(A) Detached scientific objectivity.
(B) Strong moral, didactic, and patriotic tone.
(C) Exclusive focus on the lives of common people.
(D) Rejection of the narrative form.

207. Read the following statements regarding historical documentation and select the correct option.
Statement I : A bibliography lists all the sources the author consulted.
Statement II : A footnote can be used to cite a specific source or to add a supplementary comment.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

208. The theory of 'Scientific Materialism' is associated with:
(A) Leopold von Ranke
(B) Arnold Toynbee
(C) Karl Marx
(D) Oswald Spengler

209. In the context of historiography, Post-Modernism primarily challenges:
(A) The use of footnotes.
(B) The existence of the past itself.
(C) The idea of a single, objective "grand narrative" of history.
(D) The study of regional history.

210. Match List-I with List-II.
List I: (Historian)
P. Arnold J. Toynbee
Q. Oswald Spengler
R. Karl Marx
S. Leopold von Ranke
List II: (Theory/Concept)
1. Scientific Materialism
2. Wie es eigentlich gewesen
3. Challenge and Response
4. Cyclical Theory
Choose the correct option:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

211. Which of the following constitutes an act of plagiarism?
(A) Quoting a source and citing it correctly in a footnote.
(B) Summarizing a historian's argument and citing the source.
(C) Copying a paragraph from a website into your essay without quotation marks or citation.
(D) Disagreeing with a historian's conclusion in your own words.

212. The auxiliary science of 'Epigraphy' is the study of:
(A) Coins
(B) Inscriptions
(C) Ancient scripts
(D) Family trees

213. The "scope and importance of history" lies in its ability to:
(A) predict the future with certainty.
(B) provide context for understanding contemporary society and individual identity.
(C) prove the moral superiority of one culture over another.
(D) offer an escape from present-day problems into a world of fantasy.

214. The 'Negative School of Historical Writing' was part of a philosophical debate about:
(A) the morality of historical actors.
(B) the possibility of attaining objective truth in history.
(C) the importance of economic forces.
(D) the decline of Western civilization.

215. Consider the following components of the historical method:
I. Heuristics (Discovery of sources)
II. External Criticism (Checking authenticity)
III. Internal Criticism (Checking credibility)
IV. Synthesis (Weaving the narrative)
V. Hypothesis (Formulating a question)
Which of the following represents the most logical sequence for a researcher to follow?
(A) V, I, II, III, IV
(B) I, II, III, IV, V
(C) V, IV, III, II, I
(D) II, III, I, V, IV

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(A) The employment of narrative and imagination in synthesis.
(B) The formulation of universal laws of causation.
(C) The rigorous adherence to objectivity.
(D) The use of specialized tools from auxiliary sciences.

253. Which of the following best describes the role of "auxiliary sciences" as presented in the text?
(A) They are alternative approaches to historical writing that challenge traditional methods.
(B) They are social sciences that provide theoretical models for understanding the past.
(C) They are specialized fields that offer essential tools and evidence for historical interpretation.
(D) They are branches of history that focus on specific periods or regions.

254. Based on the passage, the debate over history being a science, art, or social science stems from its:
(A) Lack of a defined subject matter.
(B) Complete dependence on auxiliary disciplines.
(C) Inability to establish a coherent narrative.
(D) Complex and multifaceted intellectual character.

255. Placing history among the social sciences would imply a greater focus on:
(A) The individual actions of great historical figures.
(B) The aesthetic and literary quality of the historical account.
(C) The analysis of societal patterns and human group behaviour.
(D) The deciphering of ancient scripts and coins.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The practice of historical inquiry is fundamentally shaped by a critical tension between the ideals of objectivity and the inescapable reality of bias. Objectivity in history represents the aspiration to reconstruct the past as it actually was, free from the historian's personal beliefs, values, or contemporary prejudices. This pursuit involves a meticulous methodological process, beginning with the heuristics operation—the systematic discovery and gathering of historical sources. Following this, the historian engages in rigorous criticism, which is twofold. External criticism assesses the authenticity of a source, questioning its origin and form to detect forgery or corruption. Internal criticism, on the other hand, evaluates the credibility of the content within an authenticated source, considering the author's reliability, potential biases, and proximity to the event. Despite these safeguards, bias remains a persistent challenge. It can manifest consciously or unconsciously, stemming from national, political, religious, or theoretical commitments. The historian's selection of topic, emphasis on certain evidence, and narrative structure are all potential avenues for bias. Therefore, the historical method is not about eliminating bias entirely—a likely impossibility—but about acknowledging its potential influence and mitigating its impact through transparent, critical, and evidence-based procedures.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. Which concept is described as the systematic discovery and gathering of historical sources?
(A) Internal Criticism
(B) Heuristics Operation
(C) Synthesis
(D) Objectivity

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257. According to the passage, what is the primary purpose of external criticism in the historical method?
(A) To evaluate the reliability of the information within a source.
(B) To synthesize different sources into a coherent narrative.
(C) To identify the historian's personal biases.
(D) To assess the authenticity and originality of a source document.

258. The passage suggests that the main difference between external and internal criticism is that internal criticism focuses on:
(A) The credibility and reliability of the source's content.
(B) The physical properties of the document.
(C) The detection of forgery and corruption.

295. The passage implies a tension between Toynbee's theory and post-modernism, where Toynbee seeks _____, while post-modernism emphasizes _____.
(A) fragmentation; universality
(B) objectivity; subjectivity
(C) patterns; fragmentation
(D) narrative; data

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Contemporary trends in historical research reflect a significant shift away from macro-level, state-centric narratives towards more localized and diverse perspectives. Central to this movement is the rising significance of regional history. By focusing on specific geographical regions, historians can unearth unique social, economic, and cultural dynamics that are often overlooked in national histories. This approach challenges the idea of a monolithic national experience and reveals a more complex tapestry of identities and developments. In the context of India, this trend has been particularly fruitful, leading to a richer understanding of the subcontinent's past. Recent Indian historiography has increasingly moved beyond the political history of empires and the nationalist movement to explore themes such as environmental history, gender, caste, and subaltern consciousness at the regional level. This methodological diversification is part of a broader trend in historical research that values micro-histories and the experiences of ordinary people. By embracing regional history, scholars can engage with a wider array of primary sources, including local records, oral traditions, and vernacular literature, thereby contributing to a more nuanced and democratic understanding of the past that reflects the complex realities of Indian society. This focus enriches recent trends of Indian history and aligns with global trends in historical research.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What is the primary benefit of focusing on regional history, according to the passage?
(A) It reinforces the idea of a single, monolithic national experience.
(B) It allows historians to ignore primary sources and focus on theory.
(C) It is exclusively concerned with the political history of empires.
(D) It reveals unique local dynamics often missed in national histories.

297. Recent trends in Indian historiography mentioned in the text include a move towards studying:
(A) Themes like gender, caste, and environmental history.
(B) Only the history of nationalist leaders.
(C) Exclusively the political history of ancient empires.
(D) A single, unified history of the entire subcontinent.

298. The passage suggests that the study of regional history contributes to a more "democratic understanding of the past" because it:
(A) Focuses solely on the actions of rulers and elites.
(B) Values the experiences of ordinary people and micro-histories.
(C) Rejects the use of all written source material.
(D) Confirms that all regions had identical historical developments.

299. According to the text, embracing regional history encourages historians to engage with which types of sources?
(A) Only official state archives and government documents.
(B) Local records, oral traditions, and vernacular literature.
(C) Secondary sources written by European historians exclusively.
(D) Grand theoretical works on the philosophy of history.

300. The rising significance of regional history is presented as a challenge to what type of historical narrative?
(A) Macro-level, state-centric national histories.
(B) Micro-histories focusing on individuals.
(C) Narratives centered on gender and subaltern groups.
(D) Histories based on oral traditions and local records.

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265. The passage implies that a hypothesis-driven approach lends what quality to historical research?
(A) Purposeful analysis
(B) Absolute certainty
(C) Narrative simplicity
(D) Complete objectivity

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The empirical foundation of historical research rests entirely on the collection and critical analysis of sources. These sources are broadly categorized into two main types: primary and secondary. Primary sources are materials that originate from the historical period under study, representing direct, firsthand evidence. They can include official documents, personal letters, diaries, eyewitness accounts, artifacts, and original creative works. In contrast, secondary sources are works that interpret, analyze, or synthesize primary sources. These are typically produced by scholars and historians after the fact and include academic books, journal articles, and historical theses. The distinction is crucial for evaluating evidence. A further, more nuanced classification refers to original and transit sources. An original source is the direct, unmediated testimony of an individual, while a transit source is one that has passed through one or more intermediaries before reaching the historian, potentially altering its content. The process of data collection involves not just locating these sources but also critically assessing their provenance, purpose, and reliability. Modern trends in historical research have expanded the definition of a source to include non-traditional forms like oral histories, films, and digital archives, broadening the evidential base available to the historian but also demanding new skills of evaluation and interpretation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. Which of the following is the best example of a primary source?
(A) A modern historian's biography of a medieval king.
(B) A personal letter written by a soldier during a war.
(C) A university textbook on the history of the Roman Empire.
(D) A documentary film produced a century after the event it depicts.

267. According to the passage, what is the defining characteristic of a secondary source?
(A) It is a direct, firsthand account from the period being studied.
(B) It is a work that interprets or analyzes primary sources after the event.
(C) It is a source that has been passed through many intermediaries.
(D) It is an unmediated testimony of an individual eyewitness.

268. The distinction between an "original source" and a "transit source" primarily concerns:
(A) The degree of mediation and potential alteration of the information.
(B) Whether the source is primary or secondary.
(C) The physical age of the document or artifact.
(D) The language in which the source was written.

269. The passage suggests that a key difference between a primary source and a secondary source is the:
(A) Level of academic rigor involved in its creation.
(B) Physical medium on which the information is stored.
(C) Temporal relationship of the creator to the event being described.
(D) Ease with which the source can be accessed by researchers.

270. What challenge do recent trends in historical research, such as using oral histories and films, present to historians?
(A) They reduce the need for primary source analysis.
(B) They are exclusively considered transit sources.
(C) They eliminate the distinction between primary and secondary sources.
(D) They demand new skills for evaluating and interpreting evidence.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The culmination of historical research is the synthesis and presentation of findings, a process

(D) Karl Marx

282. The Rankean or Positive school of historical writing emphasized which of the following?
(A) Using history to advocate for a specific philosophical agenda.
(B) The critical examination of primary sources to achieve objectivity.
(C) The development of cyclical theories of civilizational decline.
(D) A focus on the historian's imagination over archival evidence.

283. What does Von Ranke's famous phrase, "wie es eigentlich gewesen," express?
(A) The belief that history is driven by class conflict.
(B) The aspiration to represent the past objectively and accurately.
(C) The idea that all history is a response to challenges.
(D) The notion that history repeats itself in predictable cycles.

284. The passage contrasts the Positive school with Negative schools of historical writing, suggesting the latter were more inclined to:
(A) Use history for didactic purposes to criticize the past.
(B) Rely exclusively on state archives for their research.
(C) Avoid any form of moral judgment or speculation.
(D) Focus on the cyclical rise and fall of civilizations.

285. A primary outcome of the Berlin Revolution, according to the text, was the establishment of what as the standard for historical scholarship?
(A) The grand, speculative philosophical treatise.
(B) The didactic and moralizing historical narrative.
(C) The archival, source-based academic monograph.
(D) The history written primarily for popular entertainment.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Among the grand theories that attempt to explain the entire sweep of human history, the Marxist philosophy of history and Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory offer starkly contrasting paradigms. The Marxist philosophy, rooted in scientific materialism, posits that history is not a series of random events but a process governed by discernible laws, similar to the natural sciences. For Marx, the primary driver of historical change is the mode of production and the ensuing class conflict. History progresses through a sequence of stages—from feudalism to capitalism and, ultimately, to socialism—each defined by its economic base and the struggle between the dominant and subordinate classes. This view is fundamentally linear and teleological, seeing history as moving towards a specific end-state. In direct opposition is the Cyclical Theory of History, most famously articulated by Oswald Spengler. He rejected the linear, progressive view of history. Instead, Spengler argued that cultures are like organisms: they are born, grow, reach maturity, and inevitably decay and die. He saw history not as a single, continuous line of human development but as the story of multiple, distinct high cultures, each with its own unique "soul" and a finite lifespan, moving through predictable phases of spring, summer, autumn, and winter.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. What is the fundamental driver of historical change according to the Marxist philosophy of history?
(A) The challenge and response of civilizations.
(B) The organic life cycle of cultures.
(C) The actions of great individual leaders.
(D) The mode of production and class conflict.

287. Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory compares cultures to what?
(A) Geological formations
(B) Scientific laws
(C) Biological organisms
(D) Economic systems

288. A key difference between the Marxist and Spenglerian views of history is that Marxism proposes a _____ model, while Spengler proposes a _____ model.
(A) cyclical; linear
(B) linear; cyclical

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with their renewed interest in classical antiquity and human agency, began to secularize historical writing. They returned to the Greek and Roman models, focusing on politics, human motivations, and the stylistic elegance of the narrative, thereby laying the groundwork for modern historical consciousness by moving the focus from divine will back to human action.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. Which feature is described as characteristic of Greek historiography?
(A) A rational inquiry into human affairs, departing from myth.
(B) An exclusive focus on the unfolding of a divine plan.
(C) A primary emphasis on the moral failings of political leaders.
(D) The complete absence of narrative in historical accounts.

277. Church historiography, as presented in the passage, is best defined by its:
(A) Rejection of all classical models of history writing.
(B) Focus on human agency and secular motivations.
(C) Emphasis on the economic and social history of the laity.
(D) View of history as the progression of a divine plan.

278. The passage suggests that the impact of the Renaissance on history writing was to:
(A) Introduce a cyclical theory of historical development.
(B) Revive interest in classical models and focus on human agency.
(C) Reinforce the dominance of Church-centered historiography.
(D) Establish history as a scientific discipline based on archival research.

279. How did Roman historiography, as described in the text, relate to the Greek tradition?
(A) It completely rejected the Greek model in favor of a unique approach.
(B) It focused solely on mythology, in contrast to Greek rationality.
(C) It inherited and adapted the Greek model, often with a moralistic purpose.
(D) It was primarily concerned with Church history, unlike the Greeks.

280. The shift in focus from divine will to human action is attributed to which historical period's impact on historiography?
(A) Roman
(B) Greek
(C) Church
(D) Renaissance

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The nineteenth century witnessed a profound transformation in the discipline of history, often termed the "Berlin Revolution in History Writing." At the forefront of this movement was the German historian Leopold von Ranke, whose methods and philosophy professionalized the study of the past. Ranke championed a form of history grounded in meticulous, critical examination of primary sources, particularly state archives. His famous dictum was to show the past "as it actually was" (wie es eigentlich gewesen), which encapsulated an empirical and objective ideal. This Rankean approach, often associated with the Positive school of historical writing, insisted on objectivity, impartiality, and a rejection of grand philosophical speculation or moral judgment. History, in this view, could become a science by adhering to a rigorous methodology of source criticism. This stood in contrast to what could be termed the Negative schools of historical writing, which often included Enlightenment philosophers who used history didactically to criticize the past and advocate for reason and progress. The Berlin Revolution, therefore, was not just about a technique; it was a paradigm shift that established the archival, source-based, and professedly objective monograph as the gold standard for academic historical work, influencing generations of historians worldwide.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. Who is the central figure associated with the "Berlin Revolution in History Writing"?
(A) Leopold von Ranke
(B) Oswald Spengler
(C) Arnold Joseph Toynbee

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methodology required to function as an auxiliary science in history.

8. (A) Writing history as it actually was, based on primary sources.
The Berlin Revolution, led by Leopold von Ranke, marked a transformative shift toward professionalized historical research. This movement championed the objective analysis of the past, famously aiming to describe history as it actually occurred. By prioritizing original archival documents and contemporary records over later interpretations, this approach established history as an empirical academic discipline. This methodology emphasized rigorous source criticism and the importance of facts in constructing accurate and reliable historical narratives.

9. (C) Selection of a research topic.
The formal process of historical research begins with the critical step of choosing a specific topic. This selection defines the boundaries of the study, including its geographical, temporal, and thematic scope. A well-defined topic ensures that the research is manageable and that appropriate sources can be located during the heuristics phase. Without a clear starting point, the subsequent stages of data collection, source criticism, and narrative synthesis would lack necessary focus.

10. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Different historical theories are associated with specific influential thinkers. Karl Marx developed scientific materialism, focusing on economic drivers. Oswald Spengler proposed the cyclical theory, viewing civilizations as having biological lifespans. Arnold Toynbee formulated the challenge and response theory to explain the growth of cultures. Finally, Leopold von Ranke revolutionized the field by insisting that history should be written exactly as it happened, based on the rigorous and critical use of primary sources.

11. (D) The weaving of verified facts into a coherent and meaningful narrative.
Synthesis is the concluding phase of the historical method where the researcher organizes various pieces of evidence into a structured account. After sources have been discovered and critically evaluated for authenticity and credibility, they must be combined to form a logical story. This process involves establishing connections between events and interpreting their significance. Synthesis transforms fragmented data into a clear, readable narrative that explains the complexities of the past to a wider audience.

12. (B) A seal excavated from a Harappan site.
Primary sources are original artifacts or documents created during the specific time period under investigation. For the Indus Valley Civilization, archaeological finds like physical seals provide direct, firsthand evidence of ancient trade, language, and culture. Modern textbooks, research papers, and historical novels are considered secondary or tertiary sources because they interpret and analyze existing data long after the civilization ended. Such artifacts remain the most authentic foundation for understanding the ancient Harappan world.

13. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Leopold von Ranke is recognized as the father of modern objective history due to his pioneering research methods. He argued that the primary task of a historian is to portray the past as it truly was, rather than using it to serve moral or political ends. By introducing the rigorous study of archival documents and contemporary primary sources, Ranke professionalized the field. His emphasis on empirical evidence and critical analysis established the standard for historical scholarship.

14. (D) Historical interpretation is static and does not change over time.
History is a dynamic field where interpretations are constantly evolving as new evidence emerges or fresh perspectives are applied. While the past itself is unchangeable, our understanding of it shifts through the discovery of new documents and the use of modern analytical frameworks. Historians utilize both scientific methodology and creative imagination to reconstruct events. Therefore, claiming that historical interpretation is static is incorrect, as historiography is characterized by continuous revision and re-evaluation.

15. (A) IV, III, II, I, V
Logical historical research follows a specific sequence to ensure accuracy and structure. First,

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(C) static; dynamic
(D) random; determined

289. The concept of "scientific materialism" in the context of Marxist historiography implies that:
(A) History is unknowable and should be studied through spiritual means.
(B) History is the biography of great scientists and their discoveries.
(C) History moves in repeating cycles that cannot be altered.
(D) History is governed by discernible laws, driven by material economic conditions.

290. According to the passage, how did Oswald Spengler view the overall narrative of human history?
(A) As the story of multiple, separate cultures with finite lifespans.
(B) As a single, continuous line of progress towards a final goal.
(C) As a history primarily determined by class struggle.
(D) As a response to a series of environmental and social challenges.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The twentieth century produced ambitious theories of history that sought to identify macro-level patterns, but also saw the rise of a powerful critique of such grand narratives. The "Challenge and Response Theory," articulated by Arnold Joseph Toynbee, represents one of the last great efforts to formulate a universal law of civilizational development. Toynbee proposed that civilizations do not emerge from superior racial traits or favorable environments, but rather from their successful response to a significant challenge. The nature and severity of the challenge are crucial; it must be difficult enough to stimulate a creative response but not so overwhelming as to be crushing. The growth of a civilization, in Toynbee's view, is a continuous process of successfully meeting successive challenges. However, towards the latter half of the century, this type of all-encompassing theorization came under intense scrutiny from Post-Modernism in history. Post-modernist thinkers challenged the very possibility of discovering objective, universal patterns or "meta-narratives" like those of Toynbee or Marx. They argued that history is not a single, coherent story but a multiplicity of fragmented, competing narratives. For post-modernists, historical accounts are essentially textual constructs, shaped by the power structures and linguistic conventions of the historian's own time, rather than a transparent window onto the past.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. According to Arnold Joseph Toynbee's theory, what is the primary catalyst for the growth of a civilization?
(A) A consistently favorable and easy environment.
(B) The adoption of a materialistic philosophy.
(C) A successful and creative response to a significant challenge.
(D) A predetermined, cyclical process of decay.

292. What is the central argument of Post-Modernism in history, as described in the passage?
(A) That grand theories or "meta-narratives" of history are untenable.
(B) That history is best understood through the Challenge and Response Theory.
(C) That a single, objective, and universal historical narrative is possible.
(D) That economic factors are the sole determinants of historical change.

293. How does the post-modernist perspective view historical accounts?
(A) As direct and transparent windows onto the past.
(B) As definitive proof of universal historical laws.
(C) As successful responses to historical challenges.
(D) As textual constructs shaped by power and language.

294. Toynbee's "Challenge and Response Theory" can be classified as a:
(A) Post-modernist critique of historical writing.
(B) Universal theory of civilizational development.
(C) Cyclical theory of civilizational death.
(D) Marxist interpretation of class struggle.

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(D) The systematic collection of historical evidence.

259. Based on the text, what is the most realistic approach to dealing with bias in history?
(A) Eliminating all personal values and beliefs from the research process.
(B) Ignoring the potential for bias as it is an inescapable part of writing.
(C) Acknowledging and mitigating bias through critical and transparent methods.
(D) Focusing only on sources that are considered completely free from bias.

260. The pursuit of objectivity in history, as described in the passage, most closely means:
(A) Aspiring to represent the past without personal distortion.
(B) Creating an artistically pleasing narrative.
(C) Accepting all historical sources at face value.
(D) Focusing exclusively on the historian's imaginative reconstruction.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The genesis of any scholarly historical work lies in a structured and well-defined research methodology. This process commences with the crucial selection of a topic, a step that requires careful consideration of the subject's feasibility, originality, and significance within the existing body of historical knowledge. An overly broad topic may prove unmanageable, while one that is too narrow might lack sufficient source material. Once a viable topic is identified, the researcher must delineate the specific area of proposed research, establishing clear chronological, geographical, and thematic boundaries. Following this, the formulation of a hypothesis becomes a central organizing principle for the investigation. A hypothesis in history is not a rigid law but a provisional argument or a testable proposition that guides the research and provides a focus for inquiry. It posits a potential explanation or relationship between historical phenomena, which the subsequent research will aim to support, refute, or modify. This initial hypothesis-driven approach transforms the research from a mere collection of facts into a purposeful and analytical quest. The entire process, from selecting a topic to formulating a hypothesis, forms the foundational framework upon which the entire edifice of historical research is built, ensuring coherence and intellectual rigor from the outset.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, what is the primary function of a hypothesis in historical research?
(A) To provide a definitive and unchangeable conclusion about the past.
(B) To be a comprehensive summary of all available historical facts.
(C) To ensure the selection of a topic with abundant source material.
(D) To serve as a provisional argument that guides the investigation.

262. The text suggests that the selection of a topic in history should be balanced between:
(A) The researcher's personal interest and the availability of funding.
(B) A topic being overly broad and excessively narrow.
(C) The use of primary sources and secondary sources.
(D) A chronological approach and a thematic approach.

263. What is the logical sequence of initial steps in historical research as described in the passage?
(A) Hypothesis formulation → Selection of topic → Delineating research area.
(B) Delineating research area → Hypothesis formulation → Selection of topic.
(C) Selection of topic → Delineating research area → Hypothesis formulation.
(D) Data collection → Selection of topic → Hypothesis formulation.

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264. Delineating the "area of proposed research" primarily involves:
(A) Gathering all primary and secondary sources.
(B) Writing the final thesis and bibliography.
(C) Formulating a conclusive argument about the topic.
(D) Setting clear chronological, geographical, and thematic limits.

ANSWERS

1. (B) The chronological record of all past human actions, thoughts, and experiences.
The scope of history encompasses the comprehensive study of human existence throughout time. It involves documenting and analyzing every facet of human activity, including social structures, political developments, economic systems, and cultural achievements. By creating a chronological record of thoughts and experiences, history provides a vital bridge between the past and the present, allowing for a deeper understanding of the evolution of modern civilizations and human societies.

2. (B) 2, 3, 4, 1
The development of historiography followed a distinct progression through these influential figures. Herodotus established the foundation of inquiry in ancient Greece. Leopold von Ranke revolutionized the field in the nineteenth century by emphasizing archival research. Karl Marx later introduced materialist interpretations of societal change during the mid-nineteenth century. Finally, Arnold Joseph Toynbee provided comprehensive twentieth-century analyses of global civilizations, completing a sequence that reflects the evolving methodology and focus of history.

3. (C) The historian's own personal beliefs, values, and cultural background.
Achieving complete objectivity in history is fundamentally challenged by the inherent subjectivity of the researcher. Every historian possesses personal beliefs, cultural values, and specific life experiences that inevitably influence how they interpret data and construct narratives. This internal perspective affects the selection of sources, the emphasis placed on certain events, and the overall framing of the past, making a truly value-free or neutral historical account difficult to achieve.

4. (D) Discovering, finding, and gathering historical sources and evidence.
In the formal historical method, heuristics represents the initial phase of identifying and locating relevant evidence. This process involves a systematic search for primary and secondary sources, such as manuscripts, artifacts, official documents, and earlier scholarly works. Successful heuristics requires the historian to navigate archives, libraries, and archaeological sites to build a solid foundation of data before the stages of critical evaluation and narrative synthesis can begin.

5. (D) I, II, III and IV
History serves several vital functions that underscore its immense importance to humanity. It provides a necessary context for understanding current global issues and fosters a sense of collective identity within nations. Furthermore, history acts as a repository of human memory, offering valuable lessons that can help societies avoid past mistakes. By analyzing the evolution of human experiences, history offers guidance for future actions while preserving the cultural heritage of civilizations.

6. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Bias is an inherent aspect of historical writing because historians are shaped by their specific social and intellectual environments. The selection of a research topic, the prioritization of certain sources, and the final interpretation are all influenced by the author's unique perspective. Acknowledging this unavoidable reality allows for a more transparent approach to the past. Historians must manage these influences through rigorous methodology while recognizing that absolute neutrality remains an elusive goal.

7. (D) Astrology
Auxiliary sciences provide technical tools that help historians validate and interpret primary evidence. Epigraphy focuses on studying inscriptions on hard surfaces, numismatics analyzes coins, and palaeography examines ancient scripts and handwriting. These disciplines use empirical methods to authenticate historical data. Astrology, however, is a belief system based on the influence of celestial bodies on human affairs. It lacks the scientific and evidentiary

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that demands not only analytical skill but also strict adherence to academic conventions and ethical principles. After the collection and criticism of sources, the historian must weave the disparate pieces of evidence into a coherent and persuasive argument, a stage known as synthesis. This synthesis is then articulated through formal presentation, most commonly in the form of a thesis or assignment writing. The credibility of this presentation is heavily reliant on a transparent and systematic method of citation, which includes notes taking, detailed footnotes, and a comprehensive bibliography. Footnotes and references serve the dual purpose of acknowledging the sources of evidence and intellectual debts, while also allowing other scholars to trace and verify the research. The bibliography provides a complete list of all sources consulted. This meticulous system of attribution stands in direct opposition to plagiarism and intellectual dishonesty. Plagiarism, the act of presenting another's work or ideas as one's own without proper credit, is a grave violation of academic integrity. In history writing, where arguments are built upon the work of predecessors and the analysis of sources, intellectual honesty is paramount for maintaining the discipline's credibility and fostering genuine scholarly dialogue.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the process of weaving evidence into a coherent argument referred to in the passage?
(A) Data Collection
(B) Heuristics
(C) Synthesis
(D) Criticism

272. The passage highlights that footnotes and a bibliography serve a dual purpose. One is acknowledging sources; what is the other?
(A) To increase the word count of the thesis.
(B) To allow other scholars to verify the research.
(C) To demonstrate the author's linguistic skills.
(D) To provide a summary of the historian's argument.

273. According to the text, what is defined as "the act of presenting another's work or ideas as one's own without proper credit"?
(A) Intellectual honesty
(B) Synthesis
(C) Note taking
(D) Plagiarism

274. The passage argues that intellectual honesty and proper citation are paramount in history writing primarily to:
(A) Maintain the discipline's credibility and enable scholarly verification.
(B) Make the text more difficult for non-specialists to read.
(C) Adhere to legal copyright requirements exclusively.
(D) Separate the stages of synthesis and presentation.

275. Which of the following is NOT presented as a component of the formal presentation and citation process in history writing?
(A) Notes taking
(B) Footnotes
(C) Hypothesis in History
(D) Bibliography

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The evolution of history writing, or historiography, reveals a long and varied intellectual lineage, beginning with the foundational traditions of the ancient world. Greek historiography, exemplified by Herodotus and Thucydides, is often celebrated for its rational inquiry into human affairs, moving away from purely mythic explanations of the past. The Romans, such as Livy and Tacitus, inherited and adapted the Greek model, often writing with a moralistic purpose and a focus on the political and military history of the Roman state. With the rise of Christianity, Church historiography, as seen in the works of Eusebius and Augustine, emerged with a distinct teleological framework. For these writers, history was not merely a sequence of human events but the unfolding of a divine plan, progressing towards a final, predetermined end. This providential view dominated historical thought in Europe for centuries until the Renaissance precipitated a significant shift. The Renaissance humanists,

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a topic is selected, followed by the formulation of a hypothesis to guide the inquiry. Next, data is collected through heuristics. During this process, systematic note-taking is essential for organizing information. Finally, the gathered facts are woven together during the synthesis and presentation stage. This orderly progression allows the historian to move from a general interest to a finalized, evidence-based narrative.

16. (B) Karl Marx
Scientific materialism, or historical materialism, is the core philosophy developed by Karl Marx to explain human history. This theory posits that the economic base of society, specifically the mode of production, determines the social and political superstructure. Marx argued that history is driven by class struggle and the tensions resulting from changes in material conditions. Unlike Ranke's focus on political events, Marx prioritized economic factors as the primary engine for the transformation of human civilizations.

17. (B) The process of determining the authenticity and genuineness of a historical source.
Negative criticism, often referred to as external criticism, is the method used by historians to verify the physical authenticity of a source. This process involves examining the material aspects of a document, such as the paper, ink, and handwriting, to ensure it is not a forgery. By establishing that a source is genuine and belongs to the correct time period, the historian creates a reliable foundation for the subsequent stage of interpreting the document's content.

18. (A) Civilizations develop and grow by successfully responding to environmental or social challenges.
Arnold Joseph Toynbee's challenge and response theory suggests that the rise and fall of civilizations depend on their ability to adapt. When a society faces a significant physical or social challenge, its survival depends on a creative minority's ability to provide a successful solution. If the response is effective, the civilization grows and evolves; however, failure to respond adequately leads to stagnation and eventual decay. This theory emphasizes human agency and adaptability in history.

19. (C) To provide additional commentary or to cite the source of information.
Footnotes serve as a vital tool in academic writing for maintaining transparency and providing depth. They allow historians to cite the specific sources of quotations and data, enabling readers to verify the information independently. Additionally, footnotes provide a space for supplementary comments or brief discussions that might disrupt the flow of the main text. By using footnotes, writers demonstrate intellectual honesty and provide a clear trail of evidence that supports their historical arguments.

20. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Post-modernism challenges traditional historiography by questioning the existence of a single, objective historical truth. Thinkers in this school argue that history is essentially a narrative text, shaped by the language and perspective of the author. Because historical accounts are selective and interpretive, they are seen as subjective stories rather than scientific reflections of reality. This reasoning directly supports the claim that ultimate objectivity is unreachable, as all history is mediated through subjective human perspectives.

21. (C) Identifying the reasons and consequences of historical events.
Causation is a central focus of historical analysis, moving beyond simple chronological listing to explain why events occurred. It involves identifying the specific factors, both immediate and long-term, that triggered a particular change or event. By examining the relationships between different occurrences, historians can determine the outcomes and consequences of past actions. This analytical approach helps provide a deeper understanding of the complex forces that shape the development of human societies and global history.

22. (B) Presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own without proper citation.
Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic ethics involving the unauthorized use of another person's intellectual property. This occurs when a writer incorporates someone else's specific words, unique arguments, or research findings into their work without providing a clear citation. In historical scholarship, intellectual honesty is paramount, and every source of information must

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The nineteenth-century debate between the positive and negative schools focused on whether history could function as a rigorous science. The positive school, influenced by figures like Ranke, believed that objective truth could be reached through the systematic analysis of verifiable facts. The negative school was more skeptical, questioning the historian's ability to remain entirely neutral and the possibility of achieving scientific certainty. This intellectual conflict shaped the development of modern historical methodology and the ongoing discussion regarding objectivity and interpretation.

52. (D) Strong moral and patriotic purpose.
Roman historiography, exemplified by writers like Livy and Tacitus, was often characterized by its strong moralizing and patriotic tone. These historians frequently wrote with the intention of praising Roman virtues or criticizing moral decay, using the past as a guide for contemporary conduct. Their narratives were designed to inspire citizens and celebrate the greatness of the Roman state. While they used records, their primary goal was often didactic and political rather than achieving the detached objectivity sought by modern scientific historians.

53. (C) Internal Criticism or Positive Criticism
Internal criticism, also known as positive criticism, is the process of evaluating the content of a historical source. After a document's authenticity has been verified, the historian must analyze the credibility of the information it contains. This involves considering the author's intent, possible biases, the historical context, and the meaning of the language used. By critically examining what the source actually says, the historian can determine how much weight to give the evidence in constructing a reliable historical narrative.

54. (B) External Criticism; Internal Criticism
Historical methodology involves two distinct stages of source evaluation. First, external criticism is used to verify the physical authenticity of a document, such as checking the paper and ink to ensure it is not a forgery. Once authenticity is established, internal criticism is applied to assess the reliability of the content. This second step involves analyzing the author's perspective and comparing the information with other facts. Together, these processes allow historians to build their accounts on a foundation of verified and credible evidence.

55. (B) I, II and IV only
Academic writing in history requires adherence to strict standards of research and citation. A clear thesis statement is necessary to provide an original argument, and proper referencing through footnotes and bibliographies is mandatory for transparency. Intellectual honesty is paramount, requiring the acknowledgement of all borrowed ideas and information. Contrary to being discouraged, primary sources are highly valued as the foundation of original research. Together, these practices ensure that historical work is credible, verifiable, and respectful of intellectual property.

56. (A) The "deconstruction" of historical narratives
Post-modernism is most commonly associated with the concept of deconstruction, which involves analyzing historical narratives to expose their underlying assumptions and biases. This approach questions the idea of a single, objective truth, suggesting instead that history is a subjective construction shaped by language and power. By deconstructing texts, post-modernist thinkers aim to show how historical accounts are often selective and influenced by the author's perspective, thereby challenging the authority and traditional certainty of the historian's grand narratives.

57. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Karl Marx's theory of history is built on economic determinism, which posits that material conditions drive societal change. According to this framework, the economic base, consisting of the mode of production and class relations, forms the foundation of society. This base fundamentally shapes the superstructure, which includes law, politics, religion, and culture. Marx argued that tensions within the economic base lead to class conflict and historical shifts, making the material reality of human life the primary engine of historical development.

58. (A) Numismatics
Numismatics is the specialized auxiliary science of history that focuses on the study of coins and other forms of currency. For historians, coins

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questions of the data. As the research progresses, the hypothesis may be refined or even rejected based on the facts uncovered, ensuring the study remains focused and structured.

30. (B) III and IV only
Leopold von Ranke is a central figure in the professionalization of history, famously advocating for narratives that reflect the past as it actually occurred. He championed the critical use of primary archival documents, believing they were essential for accurate research. Ranke did not reject archives nor did he believe history should primarily serve moral lessons; instead, he sought objective truth. His work was instrumental in establishing history as an independent academic discipline based on rigorous training and empirical evidence.

31. (A) External Criticism
External criticism involves the scientific examination of a historical source's physical properties to determine its authenticity. When a scholar analyzes the grammar, language style, and material components of a manuscript, they are looking for signs of forgery or inconsistency with the era it claims to be from. This process ensures the source is genuine before the historian attempts to interpret its meaning. It is a fundamental step in historical methodology to prevent the use of fraudulent evidence.

32. (B) Cyclical Theory of History
Oswald Spengler's work, The Decline of the West, is a definitive example of the cyclical theory of history. He argued that civilizations are comparable to biological organisms, each having a natural life cycle of birth, growth, maturity, and inevitable decay. This perspective rejects the idea of linear progress, suggesting instead that all cultures must eventually perish. Spengler's deterministic view focused on the predictable patterns of rise and fall that characterize the development and ultimate end of global civilizations.

33. (B) An interpretation or analysis of primary sources, created after the event.
Secondary sources are works produced by individuals who did not personally experience the events they are describing. These sources analyze, interpret, and synthesize primary evidence long after the fact. Common examples include modern history books, academic articles, and documentaries that use original documents and artifacts to construct a narrative. While primary sources provide direct evidence, secondary sources offer the scholarly context and interpretations that help explain the significance and broader impact of historical occurrences and trends.

34. (A) A return to a cyclical view of history as found in early Greek texts.
The Renaissance revolutionized history writing by moving away from religious explanations toward a focus on human agency and secular causes. While it revived interest in classical Greek and Roman texts, it did not primarily promote a return to cyclical views of history. Instead, the period saw the development of philology and critical source analysis, which allowed for a more rational study of the past. This era emphasized the importance of individual actions and rational inquiry over divine providence.

35. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Key historical terms are defined by their specific roles in the research process. Heuristics is the act of discovering and gathering sources, while plagiarism represents intellectual dishonesty by using others' work without credit. Epigraphy is the specialized study of inscriptions, providing primary evidence for historians. Finally, synthesis involves the creative process of weaving verified facts into a coherent narrative. Together, these concepts form the methodological framework that allows historians to systematically investigate and present the past.

36. (D) Define the specific scope, timeframe, and geographical limits of the study.
The area of proposed research section in a thesis proposal is essential for defining the project's boundaries. It outlines the specific temporal limits, geographical focus, and thematic scope of the investigation. By clearly stating these parameters, the researcher ensures the project is manageable and academically focused. This definition helps the researcher stay on track and allows readers to understand the exact context and limitations of the study, preventing the research from becoming overly broad or vague.

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for a researcher studying the biography's author. Additionally, an original source is defined as one that remains in its pristine, unaltered condition. However, it is incorrect to say primary sources are always more reliable, as they can also contain bias. Data collection involves both primary and secondary sources, and transit sources are specifically those transmitted through copies or translations over time.

66. (A) Subject matter, methodology, and the nature of its conclusions.
The debate over history's classification as a science, art, or social science centers on its core characteristics. Those who view it as a science point to its rigorous methodology and reliance on empirical evidence. Those who see it as an art emphasize the narrative skill and imagination required to reconstruct the past. Finally, its focus on human society and complex social relationships leads many to categorize it as a social science. The debate reflects the multifaceted nature of how we understand human history.

67. (C) Using available evidence to empathetically reconstruct the mental world and motivations of people in the past.
Responsible historical imagination involves using documented evidence to better understand the perspectives and motivations of individuals from the past. It is not about inventing fictional characters or dialogue, but rather an empathetic effort to reconstruct the "mental world" of a different era based on surviving records. This disciplined use of imagination helps historians fill gaps in the narrative in a way that remains consistent with known facts, making the past more meaningful and human for a modern audience.

68. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Note taking is a fundamental skill in historical research that allows for the systematic organization of information. By recording data from various sources along with precise references and the researcher's own insights, notes become the essential building blocks for the final work. This practice ensures that information is not lost and that citations are accurate during the synthesis stage. Effective note-taking bridges the gap between the initial collection of sources and the final writing of a coherent historical narrative.

69. (C) lists all works consulted by the author, providing a fuller picture of the research background.
A bibliography is distinct from references and footnotes because of its comprehensive nature. While footnotes provide specific citations for individual claims, a bibliography lists every source the author consulted throughout the entire research process. This includes works that may have shaped the author's general understanding but were not directly quoted. By providing this complete list, the bibliography offers a fuller picture of the academic background of the project and serves as a valuable resource for other researchers in the field.

70. (A) 4, 3, 2, 1
The historical research method follows a logical progression to ensure systematic study. It begins with formulating a hypothesis to provide direction. Next, heuristics is used to discover and collect relevant primary and secondary sources. These sources then undergo rigorous external and internal criticism to evaluate their authenticity and credibility. Finally, the verified facts are woven together during the synthesis and presentation stage to create a coherent narrative. This orderly sequence ensures that the final historical account is grounded in critically evaluated evidence.

71. (D) Marxist philosophy of history
A historian who explains events like the French Revolution primarily through the lens of class struggle is applying the Marxist philosophy of history. This perspective argues that tensions between economic classes, such as the rising bourgeoisie and the established aristocracy, are the fundamental drivers of historical change. By focusing on the conflict over the means of production and material conditions, the Marxist approach provides a structural explanation for societal shifts, downplaying individual agency in favor of broader economic and social forces.

72. (A) Palaeography
Palaeography is the auxiliary science of history dedicated to the study of ancient writing systems, scripts, and handwriting. It is a critical tool

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struggle between different economic classes. Marx argued that tensions between those who own the means of production and the working class lead to social revolutions and shifts in the mode of production. This materialist perspective downplays the role of individual genius or environmental factors, focusing instead on the underlying economic structures and class dynamics as the fundamental forces that shape the progression of human history.

45. (A) 4, 2, 3, 1
Historiography has evolved through several distinct stages over the centuries. It began with medieval church historiography, which centered on divine providence. This was followed by enlightenment historiography, which introduced secularism and reason. In the nineteenth century, Ranke's Berlin Revolution established professional standards for archival research. Finally, the twentieth century brought the post-modernist critique, which questioned the objectivity of historical truth. This sequence reflects the movement from faith-based accounts to scientific methodology and then to contemporary skepticism regarding absolute historical narratives.

46. (D) The 'past' includes all events that have happened, while 'history' is the interpreted record of those events.
A fundamental distinction exists between the past and history. The past comprises the totality of all events and human actions that have ever occurred, most of which are unrecorded and lost. History, conversely, is the selective and interpreted account of that past, constructed by historians using available evidence. While the past is absolute and finished, history is a dynamic discipline that changes as new evidence is discovered and new interpretations are applied to the surviving records of human experience.

47. (A) All the sources consulted by the author, whether cited or not.
A bibliography is a comprehensive list found at the end of an academic work, such as a thesis. It includes all the primary and secondary sources that the researcher consulted during their investigation, even if they were not directly quoted or cited in the text. The purpose of a bibliography is to show the full breadth of the research and provide readers with a guide for further study. It demonstrates the scholar's thoroughness and acknowledges the intellectual foundation of their work.

48. (B) The empathetic ability to reconstruct the past and understand the perspectives of historical actors.
Historical imagination is a disciplined tool used by historians to bridge gaps in the evidentiary record. It involves the empathetic effort to understand the motivations, thoughts, and worldviews of people living in different eras. This is not the invention of fictional facts, but rather a creative process rooted in evidence that helps make the past human and relatable. By using imagination responsibly, historians can construct a more vivid and comprehensive narrative that captures the lived experience of past civilizations.

49. (B) It is overly deterministic in its application of the challenge-response formula.
Arnold Toynbee's challenge and response theory has been criticized for its deterministic approach to the rise and fall of civilizations. Critics argue that the theory attempts to fit diverse historical experiences into a rigid, universal formula that may not account for the complexities of individual cases. While the concept of adapting to environmental or social pressures is insightful, applying it as a predictable law can oversimplify the many unique factors that influence the survival and development of different human societies throughout history.

50. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Selecting a research topic is the most critical initial step in historical inquiry because it determines the feasibility of the entire project. A topic must be balanced; if it is too broad, the researcher will be overwhelmed by data and unable to provide a deep analysis within time limits. Conversely, a very narrow topic might lack sufficient primary sources to support a thesis. Therefore, carefully defining the scope is essential for ensuring that the research is manageable, evidence-based, and scholarly.

51. (C) The possibility of achieving objective, scientific knowledge in history.

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schools of thought, methodologies, and perspectives employed by historians throughout various eras. By studying historiography, researchers can understand how the perception of the past has changed and how contemporary social and intellectual contexts have influenced historical narratives. It is essentially the "history of history," providing critical insight into the evolution of historical scholarship and its changing priorities.

80. (A) II and III only
Causation is a fundamental yet complex concept in history. Historians typically distinguish between immediate short-term triggers and broader long-term causes to explain events. The study of causation also involves ongoing debates regarding determinism, as some theories suggest events are inevitable while others emphasize human agency and chance. Identifying causes is a primary goal of historical analysis, as it provides the explanation for why change occurs. Simple description is insufficient; historians must seek the underlying reasons that link past events together.

81. (B) A long research paper or dissertation presenting an original argument.
In an academic context, a thesis is a substantial piece of writing that presents original research and a specific argument on a given topic. It is the culmination of extensive investigation, involving the collection and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources. Unlike a simple summary or an assignment, a thesis must contribute something new to the field of study. It requires a rigorous methodology, proper citation, and a structured presentation, representing the scholar's ability to conduct independent and high-level historical inquiry.

82. (A) The ability of history to be a true science.
The negative school of historical writing emerged in the nineteenth century as a skeptical reaction to the claims of the positive school. Adherents of the negative school questioned whether history could ever achieve the level of absolute objectivity and certainty found in the natural sciences. They argued that because historians are influenced by their own perspectives and the evidence is often incomplete, historical knowledge is inherently interpretive. This debate highlighted the tension between scientific aspirations and the unavoidable subjectivity of human inquiry.

83. (C) its "creative minority" loses its creative power and becomes a "dominant minority".
According to Arnold Toynbee, the decline of a civilization is an internal process caused by the failure of leadership. A civilization thrives as long as its "creative minority" can successfully respond to challenges. However, when this group loses its innovative ability and relies on force to maintain its position, it becomes a "dominant minority." This shift leads to a loss of social cohesion and the eventual breakdown of the civilization. Toynbee's theory emphasizes the importance of creative leadership and social morale in historical change.

84. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Recent historiography in India has significantly expanded its scope by focusing on previously neglected areas like environmental and gender history. These trends move away from traditional narratives that prioritized political events and military conflicts. By examining the relationship between humans and nature or the specific experiences of women, historians provide a more inclusive and multi-dimensional understanding of the past. This broadening of the field allows for a deeper appreciation of the complex social and ecological factors that have shaped Indian society.

85. (A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
Major historical thinkers are uniquely identified by their influential works and core concepts. Herodotus wrote The Histories, earning him the title of the father of history. Oswald Spengler is famous for The Decline of the West, where he proposed his cyclical theory. Karl Marx is the primary figure behind scientific materialism, focusing on economic drivers of change. Finally, Leopold von Ranke led the Berlin Revolution, establishing the professional standard of writing history based on the objective analysis of primary archival sources.

86. (B) It provides a more granular and diverse understanding that challenges monolithic national histories.
The primary value of regional history lies in its ability to offer a detailed and diverse perspective

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are invaluable primary sources that provide data on economic systems, trade routes, metallurgy, and political authority. Inscriptions and imagery on coins can reveal the names of rulers, dates of reign, and religious beliefs of past societies. By analyzing these artifacts, researchers can gain specific evidence about civilizations where written records may be scarce or incomplete.

59. (D) The development of professional, seminar-based historical training
The Berlin Revolution in history writing, championed by Leopold von Ranke, marked the birth of history as a professional academic discipline. Its most significant contribution was the introduction of rigorous, seminar-based training for historians. This system emphasized the critical analysis of primary archival sources and the use of empirical evidence. By training students in specialized research methods and source criticism, the movement replaced amateur storytelling with a professionalized approach that prioritized objectivity and the systematic investigation of the human past.

60. (C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Fundamental concepts in history are categorized by their roles in methodology. Bias represents the preconceived notions that can influence a historian's interpretation. A hypothesis is a provisional thesis used to guide the research process. Synthesis is the act of creating a coherent and logical narrative from verified facts. Finally, auxiliary sciences like palaeography provide the technical tools needed to analyze specific evidence such as ancient scripts. These elements work together to ensure that historical research is systematic, critical, and well-structured.

61. (C) An increasing focus on social, economic, and cultural history from subaltern perspectives.
Recent trends in Indian historiography have moved away from traditional focuses on political dynasties and elite leaders. Instead, there is an increasing emphasis on social, economic, and cultural history, particularly from the perspective of subaltern or marginalized groups. This shift aims to provide a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the past by examining the lives of common people, women, and various social classes. This approach enriches the narrative of Indian history by incorporating previously overlooked voices and experiences.

62. (D) Citing a source after paraphrasing its main argument.
Intellectual honesty requires that all sources of information and ideas be properly acknowledged. Citing a source after paraphrasing is a standard and necessary academic practice that demonstrates integrity. In contrast, fabricating data, intentionally omitting contradictory evidence, or misrepresenting a translation as an original work are all forms of intellectual dishonesty. These actions undermine the scholarly commitment to seeking and presenting the truth. Proper citation ensures transparency and allows others to follow the evidence used in a historical argument.

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63. (A) Organisms with a lifespan of birth, growth, and decay.
Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory posits that cultures and civilizations function like biological organisms. Each civilization experiences an inevitable life cycle consisting of birth, growth, maturity, and a final period of decay and death. This deterministic view suggests that no civilization can escape its eventual end, as the process is inherent to the nature of culture itself. Spengler's perspective rejects the Enlightenment idea of continuous linear progress, focusing instead on the repetitive and predictable patterns found throughout human history.

64. (B) The critical analysis of texts and detection of forgeries like the 'Donation of Constantine'.
The development of philology during the Renaissance provided historians with powerful tools for the critical analysis of language and texts. By studying the historical evolution of words and grammar, scholars could detect anachronisms in documents. A famous example is the exposure of the Donation of Constantine as a forgery, as its language did not match the fourth-century era it claimed to be from. This critical approach marked a significant advancement in historical methodology, emphasizing evidence and accuracy over tradition and faith.

65. (C) II and III only
A clear understanding of sources is vital in historical research. A secondary source, such as a modern biography, can become a primary source

be acknowledged. Proper referencing ensures that original researchers receive credit and allows others to verify the evidence supporting historical claims.

23. (D) Regional History
Regional history focuses on the study of specific geographical areas, such as villages, districts, or provinces. This approach allows historians to examine local events, social structures, and cultural developments that might be overlooked in broader national narratives. By analyzing history at a smaller scale, researchers can provide a more nuanced and diverse understanding of the past. Regional studies often reveal unique local perspectives and contribute significantly to a more comprehensive picture of a country's heritage.

24. (A) Transit Source – A translated copy of an original manuscript.
Historical sources are classified based on their proximity to the events described. A transit source is one that has been passed down through time via copies or translations, rather than being the original document. Primary sources must be created during the period under study, while secondary sources provide later interpretations. An eyewitness account is a primary source, and a biography written long after the subject's death is a secondary source. Identifying these types is essential for source criticism.

25. (C) systematically studies human society and social relationships in the past.
History is classified as a social science because it employs systematic methods to investigate the development of human societies. It analyzes social structures, cultural institutions, and human interactions over time using evidence-based research. Unlike pure sciences, it deals with human behavior and interpretation, yet it remains disciplined through rigorous source criticism and logical reasoning. By examining how communities function and change, history contributes to the broader understanding of human relationships and social evolution throughout different eras.

26. (A) Deliberately misrepresenting or ignoring evidence that contradicts one's thesis.
Intellectual dishonesty in historical writing extends beyond plagiarism to include the intentional manipulation of evidence. This occurs when a researcher consciously overlooks or suppresses data that challenges their specific argument or hypothesis. Such actions violate the fundamental principles of scholarly integrity, which require an honest and comprehensive examination of all available sources. Maintaining intellectual honesty is crucial for producing reliable history that seeks to reflect the truth of the past rather than personal or political agendas.

27. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Historiography has undergone significant thematic shifts across different eras. During the medieval period, church historiography often viewed historical events as manifestations of divine providence or God's will. However, the Renaissance period triggered a transformation toward humanism and secularism. Writers began to emphasize human agency and rational causes rather than religious explanations. This shift marked the beginning of a more critical and human-centric approach to understanding the past, setting the stage for modern historical methodology.

28. (B) Historical knowledge can be objective and scientific, based on verifiable facts.
The positive school of historical writing, which gained prominence in the nineteenth century, emphasized the application of scientific methods to the study of the past. Adherents believed that by using rigorous source criticism and relying strictly on verifiable facts, historians could achieve objective and certain knowledge. This perspective sought to distance history from speculation and literature, treating it as an empirical discipline where the truth could be uncovered through the systematic analysis of primary evidence.

29. (C) It is a provisional explanation or argument that guides the investigation.
A hypothesis serves as a vital starting point in historical research by providing a tentative framework for the investigation. It is a provisional proposition that the researcher tests against the gathered evidence. Rather than being a final conclusion, it guides the historian in selecting relevant sources and asking specific

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for historians working with old manuscripts, allowing them to decipher texts that may be difficult to read. Furthermore, palaeography helps in dating documents and identifying forgeries by analyzing the style and characteristics of the script used. This discipline provides a technical foundation for interpreting primary source materials from the ancient and medieval periods where writing styles evolved significantly.

73. (C) violates the fundamental scholarly commitment to seeking and presenting truth.
Intellectual dishonesty is a profound problem in historical writing because it undermines the very purpose of scholarship. The primary goal of a historian is to seek and present an accurate account of the past based on an honest evaluation of evidence. When a writer fabricates data or suppresses contradictory facts, they violate this core commitment to truth. This breach of ethics damages the credibility of the entire field and misleads readers, making it impossible to build a reliable and objective understanding of history.

74. (A) It seeks to establish a single, all-encompassing grand narrative for human history.
Post-modernist thought is characterized by its skepticism toward grand narratives or metanarratives that claim to provide a single, universal explanation for all of human history. Instead, post-modernism emphasizes that history is a selective narrative construction and questions the possibility of absolute objectivity. It views historical truth as subjective and multiple, focusing on local contexts and the role of language. Therefore, seeking an all-encompassing grand narrative is entirely contrary to the fundamental principles of the post-modernist approach to the past.

75. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Renaissance marked a major turning point in historiography by shifting the focus from religious to human affairs. Medieval writers often interpreted history through the lens of divine providence and the will of the Church. However, Renaissance humanism promoted a more secular perspective, emphasizing human agency and rational causes. This era also introduced a more critical approach to source materials and a renewed interest in classical models. This transformation laid the groundwork for modern historical inquiry by prioritizing evidence-based and human-centered narratives.

76. (B) Positive school of historical writing
J.B. Bury's famous assertion that history is a science reflects the core belief of the positive school of historical writing. This nineteenth-century movement sought to apply empirical and scientific methods to the study of the past. Adherents believed that through rigorous source criticism and a focus on verifiable facts, historians could uncover objective truth. By comparing history to a science, Bury emphasized the importance of a disciplined methodology and the idea that historical knowledge can be as certain and objective as natural laws.

77. (C) To acknowledge their perspective and be transparent about their methodology.
Since complete objectivity is nearly impossible, the most ethical way for a historian to handle inherent bias is through transparency. A responsible scholar should openly acknowledge their perspective and the specific analytical framework they are using. By being clear about their methodology and the selection of sources, they allow readers to understand how the narrative was constructed. This honesty does not eliminate bias but manages it, ensuring the research remains credible and providing a basis for others to evaluate the work.

78. (D) Combining chronicles, coins, and architecture to explain Akbar's religious policy.
Synthesis in history is the process of integrating diverse pieces of evidence into a coherent and explanatory narrative. In the study of the Mughal Empire, a historian performs synthesis by combining information from various primary sources, such as written chronicles, numismatic data from coins, and the physical evidence of architecture. By weaving these different threads together, the scholar can create a comprehensive explanation of complex topics like religious policy, moving beyond mere data collection to provide a meaningful historical interpretation.

79. (A) The study of the history of history writing.
Historiography is the specialized field that examines how history has been written and interpreted over time. It focuses on the different

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37. (C) The relationship where specific events provide the reason for another.
Causation in history refers to the analytical relationship between events, where one occurrence acts as a reason or trigger for another. It is the study of cause and effect, aiming to explain why certain developments happened by identifying contributing factors. Historians look for both immediate triggers and long-term causes to provide a comprehensive explanation of change. This approach moves beyond simple chronology, providing the logical links that make the past understandable as a sequence of interconnected human actions.

38. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Regional history is significant because it explores the specific local contexts that broader national narratives might ignore. It brings to light the unique social structures, local events, and diverse perspectives found within different areas of a country. By focusing on smaller geographical scales, historians can provide a more complex and accurate understanding of a nation's overall past. This approach enriches historiography by recognizing that national history is composed of many distinct and overlapping regional experiences.

39. (D) Oswald Spengler – Linear progress of history
The pairing of Oswald Spengler with linear progress is incorrect because he was a major proponent of the cyclical theory. Spengler argued that civilizations follow a biological life cycle of birth, growth, and inevitable decay, rather than progressing steadily toward a higher goal. In contrast, Leopold von Ranke focused on primary sources, Karl Marx championed economic determinism, and Arnold Toynbee analyzed the rise and fall of civilizations. Spengler's work famously rejected the Enlightenment idea of continuous linear human improvement.

40. (B) II, III and IV only
Post-modernism in history emphasizes that historical accounts are subjective narratives rather than reflections of a single objective reality. It views history as a text open to multiple interpretations and challenges the idea of the historian as a neutral observer. Furthermore, it rejects grand narratives that attempt to explain the entire human past through a single theory. Post-modernism does not view history as a pure science; instead, it highlights the linguistic and selective nature of how we reconstruct the past.

41. (C) an Art
When history is viewed as an art, the focus shifts to the historian's creative ability to reconstruct the past through intuition and empathy. This perspective emphasizes that writing history requires narrative skill and literary flair to make the past come alive for the reader. While it still relies on evidence, the artistic view recognizes that filling gaps and understanding human motivations often requires a level of imaginative insight that goes beyond purely scientific or statistical data analysis.

42. (A) The beginning of rational and critical inquiry into human affairs.
Greek historiography, particularly the work of Herodotus and Thucydides, marked the transition from mythological storytelling to rational inquiry. These authors sought human-centered explanations for events like wars and political shifts, rather than relying solely on divine intervention. They introduced methods of investigation and critical evaluation of information, which laid the foundation for Western historical writing. This shift toward analyzing the motives and actions of people established history as a discipline rooted in evidence and human-centric reasoning.

43. (D) A source that has been passed down through translation or copying.
A transit source is an piece of historical evidence that is not in its original form but has been transmitted through intermediaries. This includes documents that have been copied by hand over generations or translated from their original language into another. Because these sources have been altered from their pristine state, historians must exercise caution and apply rigorous criticism to identify potential errors or changes introduced during the process of transmission. Transit sources are common when studying ancient and medieval periods.

44. (B) The conflict between economic classes.
According to the Marxist philosophy of history, the primary driver of change is the ongoing

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on the past. National histories often focus on major political centers and elite figures, potentially creating a monolithic view that ignores local variations. Regional studies bring to light the unique social, economic, and cultural developments of specific areas, providing a more complex and inclusive narrative. This granular approach enriches historiography by showing how local experiences both contribute to and challenge overarching national stories.

87. (D) To add a personal, non-academic opinion or anecdote.
Footnotes and endnotes are essential academic tools designed to maintain scholarly rigor and transparency. They are primarily used to cite the sources of data and quotations, provide cross-references within the text, or offer brief historiographical discussions that would otherwise interrupt the narrative flow. However, using them for personal, non-academic opinions or anecdotes is inappropriate. Every part of a historical work, including the notes, should remain focused on evidence-based analysis and professional commentary rather than subjective or irrelevant personal asides.

88. (A) Discovery
Heuristics is the specific phase of the historical method concerned with the discovery and collection of source materials. It involves a systematic search for primary and secondary evidence, such as archival documents, physical artifacts, and existing scholarship. This initial step is crucial because the quality and quantity of the sources found directly influence the entire research project. Without successful heuristics, the subsequent stages of criticism, interpretation, and synthesis would lack the necessary foundation of evidence required to construct a valid historical narrative.

89. (C) Objectivity is a desirable but ultimately unreachable goal, as all history is a subjective narrative.
The post-modernist view on objectivity in history is characterized by skepticism. Adherents argue that because historians are inevitably shaped by their language, culture, and personal perspectives, a purely neutral and objective account of the past is impossible. Every historical narrative is seen as a subjective construction that reflects the author's specific choices and context. While objectivity remains an ideal that many strive for, post-modernism emphasizes that all history is fundamentally an interpretation and a narrative, rather than an absolute truth.

90. (B) I, II and III only
Medieval church historiography was defined by its religious focus and providential outlook. History was interpreted as the unfolding of God's plan, with an emphasis on divine will rather than human agency. These accounts often served a moral and didactic purpose, aiming to provide spiritual lessons through the narration of historical events within a universal Christian framework. Critical analysis and secular primary sources were not priorities; instead, the past was understood primarily through the lens of faith and the overarching story of human salvation.

91. (D) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
The theory of challenge and response is the central concept in the work of Arnold Joseph Toynbee. He proposed that civilizations rise and develop by successfully overcoming environmental or social challenges. The survival of a civilization depends on the ability of a creative minority to find effective responses to these threats. If a civilization fails to respond adequately to new challenges, it enters a period of stagnation and eventual decline. This theory emphasizes the importance of human adaptability and leadership in historical development.

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92. (B) Primary sources
Primary sources are original materials created by individuals who were directly involved in or witnessed the events being studied. In a biography of Jawaharlal Nehru, his own letters, speeches, and autobiography serve as direct, firsthand evidence of his thoughts, actions, and perspectives. These documents provide the most authentic foundation for historical research because they were produced by the subject himself during his lifetime. Historians prioritize such materials over secondary interpretations to gain a closer and more accurate understanding of historical figures and their eras.

93. (C) Rigorous training, seminar-based teaching, and critical analysis of archival sources.

In historical methodology, heuristics refers specifically to the discovery and collection of source materials, while criticism is the separate process of evaluating those sources. Criticism is fundamentally divided into two stages: external criticism, which investigates the physical authenticity of a document, and internal criticism, which assesses the credibility and meaning of its content. Therefore, it is incorrect to say heuristics is the evaluation process; rather, it is the initial search for evidence that provides the foundation for the subsequent stages of critical analysis.

148. (B) Promoting the critical study of sources and a focus on human affairs.
The Renaissance significantly transformed history writing by introducing a more secular and critical perspective. Moving away from the providential views of the medieval era, Renaissance humanists emphasized human agency and rational causes in their accounts of the past. This period also saw the development of philology and a more analytical approach to evaluating the authenticity of documents. By reviving interest in classical models and prioritizing human-centered explanations, the Renaissance laid the essential groundwork for modern historical methodology and the professional study of the past.

149. (B) Demonstrate intellectual honesty and provide the basis for one's arguments.
The rigorous use of references, footnotes, and a bibliography is essential for maintaining academic integrity in a thesis. These tools demonstrate intellectual honesty by clearly acknowledging the sources of ideas, data, and quotations. Furthermore, they provide the necessary evidence to support the author's arguments and allow other researchers to verify the information independently. By providing a clear trail of evidence, citations ensure transparency and connect the work to the broader body of scholarly knowledge, strengthening the credibility of the historical research.

150. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Karl Marx's materialist interpretation of history is based on the idea that economic forces are the primary drivers of societal change. He argued that the economic base, which includes the mode of production and class relations, forms the foundation of every society. This base fundamentally determines the superstructure, consisting of legal, political, and cultural institutions. According to this theory, tensions within the economic structure lead to class struggle and historical shifts, making material reality the essential factor in understanding the evolution of human civilizations.

151. (C) Political
The statement that "history is past politics" reflects a traditional view that prioritizes political events and state actions as the primary focus of historical study. This perspective centers on the development of government institutions, the actions of rulers, and the impact of diplomacy and war. While modern history has broadened to include social and cultural dimensions, this specific outlook emphasizes that understanding the past is essential for comprehending present-day political structures and power dynamics, viewing history as a continuous narrative of political evolution.

152. (C) Old age and decline
According to the cyclical theory of Oswald Spengler, Western civilization has entered its final stage of old age and decline. Spengler argued that every culture follows a natural life cycle similar to a biological organism, moving from a creative "culture" phase to a stagnant "civilization" phase. In his view, the modern West has exhausted its creative potential and is transitioning toward an inevitable period of decay and ultimate collapse. This deterministic perspective rejects the idea of continuous progress, emphasizing instead the repetitive patterns of civilizational lifespans.

153. (B) Theses involve original research, while assignments are based on literature.
A fundamental difference between assignment writing and thesis writing in history lies in the nature of the research. Assignments are typically based on existing literature and secondary sources, requiring students to synthesize and discuss known information. In contrast, a thesis involves conducting original research, often using primary source materials to make a unique argument or contribution to the field. While both require academic rigor and proper citation, the thesis represents a higher level of independent

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100. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Oswald Spengler's historical philosophy is built on the comparison of human cultures to biological organisms. In his work, The Decline of the West, he argues that every civilization follows a pre-ordained life cycle consisting of birth, youth, maturity, and inevitable decay. This biological analogy leads to a deterministic view of history, where the rise and fall of societies are seen as natural and unavoidable processes. This cyclical perspective rejects the Enlightenment idea of continuous linear progress, focusing instead on the repetitive patterns of civilizational lifespans.

101. (D) The discovery and collection of sources.
Heuristics is the essential first stage of the historical method, involving the systematic search for and collection of evidence. This process includes identifying both primary and secondary sources, such as archival documents, manuscripts, physical artifacts, and existing scholarly works. Effective heuristics provides the necessary foundation for the entire research project. Without locating a sufficient body of evidence, the later stages of criticism, interpretation, and synthesis cannot be successfully performed, as there would be no data to analyze or narrative to construct.

102. (A) Primary sources are created during the period under study, while secondary sources are created after.
The fundamental difference between primary and secondary sources lies in their chronological relationship to the event. Primary sources are original records or artifacts produced by participants or witnesses during the actual time of the occurrence. Examples include diaries, official documents, and contemporary artifacts. Secondary sources are created after the period being studied and provide interpretations or analyses based on primary evidence. Historians use primary sources as direct evidence and secondary sources to gain scholarly context and a broader understanding of historical interpretations.

103. (C) A linear process guided by divine providence towards salvation.
Medieval church historiography viewed history through a religious and teleological lens. Events were seen as part of a linear progression guided by divine providence toward a predetermined spiritual goal, which was the salvation of humanity. This perspective prioritized religious significance over secular causes, interpreting historical changes as manifestations of God's will. History was essentially an unfolding sacred story, and the primary role of the historian was to document the triumph of the Christian faith and the progression of the church throughout time.

104. (D) Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of using another person's unique words, research, or ideas without providing proper credit or citation. In academic and historical writing, it is considered a serious breach of intellectual honesty. Proper scholarship requires a transparent acknowledgment of all sources to ensure that original authors are credited and that readers can verify the evidence. Failing to do so misrepresents the work as original, undermining the integrity of the individual scholar and the broader academic community's commitment to truth and fairness.

105. (C) II, III and IV only
Imagination is a vital but disciplined tool in historical research. It helps historians formulate initial hypotheses and is essential for empathetic reconstruction, allowing for a deeper understanding of the motivations and perspectives of people in the past. Additionally, imagination is used to weave fragmented evidence into a coherent and readable narrative. However, it must never be used to invent fictional facts. When used responsibly and based strictly on evidence, imagination bridges the gaps in the historical record, making the past more comprehensive and human.

106. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Leopold von Ranke's insistence on portraying the past exactly as it happened is the foundational principle of the positive school of historical writing. This nineteenth-century movement believed that by employing rigorous scientific methodology and focusing exclusively on primary sources, historians could achieve objective truth. The goal was to remove personal bias and present a factual, empirical account of history.

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to move history away from subjective storytelling toward a more objective and empirical science. This revolution established the standards for archival research and source criticism that define modern professional historical scholarship.

134. (C) A copy or translation of an original document.
A transit source is an piece of historical evidence that has been passed down through an intermediary, such as a copyist or a translator. It is not the original, pristine document created at the time of the event. Because transit sources have been subject to potential errors or changes during the process of transmission over time, historians must apply particularly rigorous criticism to verify their accuracy. These sources are common in ancient and medieval history where many original manuscripts have been lost but their content survives through later versions.

135. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Auxiliary sciences of history provide the technical tools needed to analyze specific types of primary evidence. Numismatics is the study of coins, while epigraphy focuses on inscriptions found on durable surfaces. Palaeography is the discipline dedicated to deciphering and dating ancient scripts and handwriting. Finally, genealogy involves the study of family lineage and history. These specialized fields allow historians to validate and interpret diverse historical data, providing a more accurate and detailed understanding of past civilizations based on physical artifacts and specialized records.

136. (B) Scientific Materialism or Historical Materialism
The Marxist philosophy of history is commonly referred to as scientific materialism or historical materialism. This theory posits that the economic organization of society, specifically the mode of production, is the fundamental driver of historical development. It argues that changes in material conditions lead to class conflict, which in turn results in social and political transformation. By analyzing history through this materialist lens, Marxism seeks to identify predictable laws of historical progression, moving away from explanations based on individual agency or spiritual and religious factors.

137. (B) It encompasses all aspects of human past and is vital for understanding the present.
The scope of history is vast, covering every dimension of human activity, including social, political, economic, and cultural experiences. Its importance lies in providing the essential context needed to understand the modern world. By analyzing how societies have evolved and the origin of present-day problems, history helps individuals and nations form a sense of identity. It offers critical lessons from past successes and failures, serving as a vital repository of human experience that guides our understanding of contemporary society and future developments.

138. (B) The writing of the final historical account in a clear and coherent manner.
Presentation is the concluding phase of the historical method where the researcher shares their findings. This involves writing the final narrative in a clear, logical, and structured manner, ensuring that the arguments are supported by the evidence gathered and analyzed in earlier stages. A successful presentation translates complex research into an accessible and meaningful account that explains the past to an audience. It requires narrative skill and academic precision, representing the culmination of the historian's work in uncovering and interpreting historical truth.

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139. (D) Leopold von Ranke – 'The Annales School'
The pairing of Leopold von Ranke with the Annales School is incorrect. Ranke is the central figure of the nineteenth-century Berlin Revolution, which focused on diplomatic history and the critical use of archival sources to achieve objectivity. The Annales School was founded in France in the twentieth century and prioritized long-term social, economic, and environmental structures over political events. While both emphasized rigorous methodology, they represented different historiographical priorities. The other pairs correctly link thinkers like Toynbee, Spengler, and Marx with their respective works and theories.

140. (A) I, III, and IV only
Intellectual dishonesty in history writing involves intentional acts that mislead the reader or misrepresent evidence. This includes fabricating primary sources, consciously suppressing

about the past. Furthermore, each generation of historians brings new questions, perspectives, and innovative methodologies to their research. As societal values and academic interests shift, the interpretation of existing facts changes. This continuous re-evaluation ensures that historical knowledge remains relevant and comprehensive, reflecting the evolving understanding of the complex forces that have shaped humanity.

114. (D) Positive school
The negative school of historical thought emerged in the nineteenth century primarily as a skeptical reaction to the claims of the positive school. While the positive school, led by figures like Ranke, believed that history could achieve absolute scientific objectivity and certain truth, the negative school questioned these assertions. Adherents of the negative school argued that the historian's personal perspective and the nature of historical evidence make complete neutrality impossible. This debate highlighted the tension between the scientific ideal and the interpretive nature of historical study.

115. (B) II, III, and V
The historical research process follows a logical sequence to ensure academic rigor. Heuristics, or the search for sources, must necessarily precede the stage of criticism, where those sources are evaluated. Synthesis is the process of integrating verified facts into a structured and meaningful narrative. Finally, the bibliography is compiled to list all the works consulted during the project. Selecting a topic is the initial step, not the final one, and a hypothesis is a tentative proposition rather than a fixed conclusion.

116. (B) Divine providence to human agency.
The impact of the Renaissance on historiography was defined by a profound shift in how historical causes were understood. Moving away from the medieval focus on divine providence and religious explanations, Renaissance writers emphasized human agency and secular factors. They began to look for rational causes in politics, diplomacy, and individual character. This transition toward a more human-centric and secular perspective, combined with the development of critical source analysis, laid the essential foundation for the methodology used in modern historical research.

117. (C) The exclusive focus on national political leaders.
Recent trends in Indian historiography are characterized by an expansion of scope beyond traditional elitist narratives. While earlier histories often focused exclusively on national political leaders and dynasties, modern scholarship prioritizes social, economic, and cultural history. This includes subaltern studies, which examines marginalized groups, as well as the fields of gender and environmental history. These trends aim to provide a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the Indian past by incorporating the experiences of common people and analyzing the role of nature and gender in society.

118. (B) Historians must strive for objectivity while acknowledging and controlling their own biases.
The central dilemma of historical research is the balance between objectivity and bias. While complete, value-free neutrality is an ideal that is difficult to fully achieve, historians must still strive for it through rigorous methodology and source criticism. This involves a conscious effort to identify and acknowledge one's own perspectives and cultural influences. By being transparent about their framework and carefully analyzing diverse evidence, historians can minimize the impact of personal bias, ensuring their work remains credible and scholarly rather than purely subjective.

119. (C) Marxist Historiography
A historian who focuses on changing modes of production and their impact on social structures is operating within the framework of Marxist historiography. This perspective views material conditions and economic structures as the foundation of society, which in turn shape political and cultural institutions. By analyzing history through the lens of economic development and class relations, the Marxist approach seeks to identify the underlying structural forces that drive historical change, rather than focusing solely on individual agency or environmental factors like Toynbee or Spengler.

120. (A) 4, 2, 1, 3
The chronological order of these thinkers reflects the evolution of historical thought. Augustine of Hippo, writing in late antiquity, established

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the foundations of providential history. Leopold von Ranke revolutionized historiography in the nineteenth century with his emphasis on archival research and objectivity. Karl Marx later introduced his materialist interpretation of history during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Finally, Arnold J. Toynbee provided his global analysis of civilizations in the twentieth century. This progression shows the shift from religious frameworks to scientific methodology and comprehensive social theories.

121. (A) The process of gathering evidence from primary and secondary sources.
Data collection is a critical phase in historical research that involves identifying and gathering relevant information from a variety of sources. This includes locating primary materials such as original documents and artifacts, as well as secondary sources like scholarly books and articles. During this stage, the historian builds the evidentiary foundation required to test their hypothesis. Effective data collection through heuristics is essential for ensuring that the subsequent analysis and narrative synthesis are based on a comprehensive and reliable set of facts.

122. (B) The 'grand narrative' or 'metanarrative'.
Post-modernism in history is primarily defined by its critique of grand narratives or metanarratives. These are universal theories, such as Marxism or ideas of inevitable progress, that claim to provide a single, all-encompassing explanation for the human past. Post-modernist thinkers argue that such overarching theories are subjective constructions that ignore local complexities and marginalized voices. Instead, they emphasize the narrative nature of history and the existence of multiple, competing interpretations, thereby challenging the idea of a single, definitive, and objective historical truth.

123. (A) helps organize vast amounts of information and track their sources.
Note taking is a vital organizational skill in the historical research process. It allows a researcher to systematically record specific data, quotations, and insights from a wide range of primary and secondary sources. Furthermore, careful note-taking ensures that all information is linked to its original source, which is essential for accurate citation and avoiding plagiarism. By organizing large volumes of fragmented information, notes provide the structured foundation needed for the historian to later analyze evidence and synthesize a coherent historical narrative.

124. (B) Both essential; causation provides the analytical framework, and imagination helps reconstruct the human element.
Causation and imagination are complementary tools in historical analysis. Causation provides the logical and analytical framework by identifying the reasons and consequences behind events. Imagination, when used responsibly and based on evidence, helps the historian reconstruct the lived experience and motivations of people in the past. While causation explains the structural "why," imagination brings the human element to life. Together, they allow the historian to move beyond a simple list of facts to create a deep and meaningful understanding of history.

125. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Plagiarism is recognized as a grave act of intellectual dishonesty because it fundamentally violates the ethical standards of academia. By presenting someone else's original ideas, research, or specific wording as their own, an individual undermines the principles of intellectual property and scholarship. Proper acknowledgment through citation is not merely a technicality but a mandatory convention that ensures transparency and respects the contributions of others. Therefore, plagiarism damages the credibility of both the individual researcher and the broader scholarly pursuit of truth.

126. (B) Oswald Spengler
The cyclical theory of history is most famously associated with the twentieth-century philosopher Oswald Spengler, particularly in his seminal work, The Decline of the West. He proposed that civilizations and cultures are like biological organisms that pass through fixed stages of birth, growth, maturity, and inevitable decay. This deterministic perspective rejects the idea of continuous linear progress, suggesting instead that all human societies follow a predictable pattern of rise and fall. Spengler's theory profoundly influenced subsequent

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discussions on civilizational lifespans and historical change.

127. (B) They provide evidence of the research undertaken and allow readers to verify the sources.
Footnotes and bibliographies are essential components of scholarly research that serve two primary functions. First, they provide concrete evidence of the extensive research conducted by the author, demonstrating that the work is grounded in existing knowledge and primary sources. Second, they ensure transparency by allowing readers and other scholars to locate and verify the specific sources used to support historical claims. This process is fundamental to intellectual honesty and the collaborative nature of academic inquiry, ensuring that historical narratives remain verifiable.

128. (B) The nature of historical knowledge and the methods used to obtain it.
The debate regarding history's classification as a science, art, or social science centers on fundamental questions about the nature of historical knowledge. It examines whether the past can be studied with scientific objectivity, whether it requires the narrative creativity of an art, or whether it is best understood through the social analysis of human systems. This discussion explores the methodology used by historians, the possibility of achieving absolute truth, and the ultimate purpose of historical inquiry in understanding the human condition over time.

129. (C) Ancient Greece
The beginnings of Western historical writing are traditionally traced to ancient Greece, particularly the works of Herodotus and Thucydides. These writers moved beyond mythological explanations to seek rational and human-centered causes for events like wars and political conflicts. By introducing the principles of inquiry, evidence, and critical evaluation of information, they established history as a distinct discipline rooted in human action and rational thought. This shift marked the birth of a systematic and critical approach to recording and understanding the human past in Western culture.

130. (D) I, II, III and IV
Historical methodology consists of several interconnected stages that ensure a rigorous study of the past. Heuristics involves the initial search for sources, while external criticism tests their physical authenticity. Internal criticism evaluates the credibility and meaning of the content within those sources. Finally, synthesis brings these verified facts together to create a structured narrative. Each of these steps is essential for producing high-quality historical scholarship that is based on original research, critical analysis, and the logical organization of evidence.

131. (C) Moral and didactic purpose, often with a patriotic slant.
Roman historiography, seen in the works of authors like Livy and Tacitus, was frequently driven by a strong moral and didactic purpose. These historians often used the past as a tool to celebrate Roman virtues, promote patriotism, and provide lessons for contemporary leaders and citizens. Their narratives were often designed to inspire and educate rather than to achieve the detached, scientific objectivity sought by modern scholars. While they used records, the overarching intent was to strengthen the moral and social fabric of the Roman state.

132. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Selecting a research topic is the critical starting point of any historical inquiry. A well-chosen topic is essential because it determines the feasibility and focus of the entire project. It must be specific enough to be manageable within time constraints and have a sufficient foundation of primary and secondary sources available for study. Furthermore, the researcher's own interest in the subject is vital for sustaining the project through the rigorous stages of data collection, critical analysis, and the final synthesis of the narrative.

133. (D) Leopold von Ranke
The Berlin Revolution in history writing refers to the profound methodological shifts initiated by Leopold von Ranke in the nineteenth century. He professionalized the discipline by introducing rigorous seminar-based training and emphasizing the critical use of primary archival sources. Ranke famously championed the goal of portraying the past exactly as it occurred, seeking

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The Berlin Revolution in history writing, led by Leopold von Ranke, significantly professionalized the discipline. It introduced rigorous academic training through a seminar system, where students learned the technical skills of source criticism. The movement emphasized the objective analysis of the past, famously aiming to show what actually happened. By prioritizing the study of primary archival sources and evidence-based research over speculative storytelling, this revolution established the methodological standards that define modern professional historical scholarship as a disciplined academic pursuit.

94. (D) progresses through identifiable stages based on the mode of production.
Marxist scientific materialism posits that history follows a logical progression through distinct stages, such as feudalism, capitalism, and socialism. This movement is driven by changes in the material base of society, specifically the mode of production and the resulting class conflicts. According to this theory, the economic structure is the primary force that shapes historical development. History is not seen as a random series of events, but as a predictable process determined by the tensions between productive forces and social relations.

95. (A) 2, 1, 4, 3
The chronological sequence of major Mughal sources reflects the progression of the empire's history. The Tuzuk-i-Baburi was written by Babur, the empire's founder, in the early sixteenth century. This was followed by Abul Fazl's Akbarnama during the reign of Akbar. Later, Abdul Hamid Lahori produced the Padshahnama during the time of Shah Jahan. Finally, Khafi Khan wrote the Muntakhab-ul-Lubab in the early eighteenth century. This sequence provides a primary textual record covering the rise, peak, and transition of the Mughal state.

96. (B) The historian's ability to present a completely value-free account of the past.
Objectivity and bias are central concepts in historiography that concern the historian's relationship with their subject. Objectivity is the ideal of presenting a neutral and value-free account of the past based solely on evidence. Bias refers to the personal beliefs, cultural values, or political leanings that can influence how a historian selects sources and interprets data. The debate over these concepts acknowledges that while absolute neutrality is difficult to achieve, historians must use rigorous methodology to identify and manage their inherent perspectives.

97. (B) a source in its pristine, unaltered condition from the time of its creation.
An original source is a primary document or artifact that remains in its first, unaltered state as it was created during the time under study. Unlike a transit source, which may have been copied or translated over generations, an original source provides direct and untainted evidence of the past. For historians, these are the most highly valued materials because they minimize the risk of errors or interpretations introduced by intermediaries. Such sources are essential for establishing an accurate and reliable foundation for historical research.

98. (B) Provides a counter-narrative to elitist, top-down historical accounts.
The growth of regional history in recent decades is a reaction against traditional histories that focused primarily on national elites and major political centers. By studying specific areas, historians can uncover the experiences of common people and marginalized groups, providing a necessary counter-narrative to top-down accounts. This localized approach reveals the diversity and complexity of the past, showing how national events were experienced differently at the regional level. Regional history thus contributes to a more inclusive and democratic understanding of human heritage.

99. (C) Epigraphy (the study of inscriptions)
Auxiliary sciences are specialized disciplines that provide historians with technical methods for analyzing primary evidence. Epigraphy is a prime example, as it focuses on the study of ancient inscriptions found on stone, metal, or other durable surfaces. These inscriptions often provide direct information about laws, rulers, and social events. Other auxiliary sciences include numismatics and palaeography. While sociology and political science are related fields, epigraphy is specifically an auxiliary science because it serves as a technical tool for authenticating and interpreting original historical records.

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contradictory data, and misattributing quotations without verification. These actions violate the fundamental ethical standards of scholarship. In contrast, providing proper citations through paraphrasing or correcting factual errors in later editions are practices that demonstrate intellectual honesty and academic integrity. Maintaining these standards is crucial for ensuring that historical research remains a credible and reliable search for the truth about the past.

141. (A) successfully overcome a specific difficulty or threat.
Arnold Toynbee's challenge and response theory posits that the growth of a civilization is a result of its ability to adapt to external or internal pressures. When a society faces a significant challenge, such as an environmental change or social crisis, its future depends on a creative minority's ability to provide a successful response. If the response is effective, the civilization evolves and becomes more complex. This theory highlights the importance of human agency and the dynamic process of adaptation in the history of civilizations.

142. (B) Secondary Source
A modern book about an ancient ruler like Ashoka is considered a secondary source because it was written long after the events it describes. The author relies on primary evidence, such as Ashoka's edicts and contemporary archaeological finds, to construct an interpretation and analysis of the reign. Secondary sources are essential for providing scholarly context and synthesizing vast amounts of information. They differ from primary sources, which are original records from the time period itself, by offering a later perspective and analytical narrative of the past.

143. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Regional history has gained prominence in Indian historiography because it provides a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the past. National narratives often focus on central political power, potentially overlooking the unique social and cultural developments in different parts of the country. By focusing on specific regions, historians can uncover local perspectives and events that challenge or enrich broader stories. This localized approach ensures a more comprehensive and accurate picture of history that reflects the complexity and variety of experiences within a nation.

144. (B) Historical knowledge could be established with scientific certainty.
The positive school of historical writing, prominent in the nineteenth century, was based on the belief that history could be as objective and accurate as the natural sciences. Adherents argued that through the systematic application of rigorous source criticism and a strict focus on verifiable facts, historians could uncover the absolute truth of the past. This perspective aimed to move history away from speculation and literature, establishing it as an empirical academic discipline where knowledge is grounded in critically evaluated primary evidence.

145. (A) Imagination and Synthesis
When primary documents from specific social groups are missing, historians must use imagination and synthesis to reconstruct their world. By combining fragmented data from court records, tax rolls, and archaeological finds, the researcher creates a coherent narrative of the past. "Disciplined imagination" is used to bridge the gaps in the record, allowing the historian to empathetically understand the motivations and daily lives of people. This creative yet evidence-based process is essential for providing a comprehensive view of history that includes marginalized voices.

146. (B) A skepticism towards grand, universal theories of history (metanarratives).
Post-modernism in history is primarily characterized by its skepticism toward metanarratives, which are grand, universal theories that claim to explain all of human experience. Post-modernist thinkers argue that these theories are subjective constructions that overlook local contexts and diverse perspectives. They emphasize that history is a narrative text shaped by language and power dynamics, rather than a purely objective science. This approach encourages historians to focus on multiple interpretations and the selective nature of how the past is recorded and presented to the present.

147. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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This approach sought to transform history from a form of literature into a professional academic discipline rooted in verifiable evidence and objective analysis.

107. (D) Give focus and direction to the research process.
A hypothesis serves as a provisional framework that guides a historical investigation. It is a tentative proposition or question that the researcher tests against the gathered evidence. By formulating a hypothesis at the beginning, the historian provides focus to their research, helping to identify which sources are relevant and which questions are most important. Rather than being a final conclusion, the hypothesis is a flexible tool that may be modified or rejected as the research uncovers new facts and interpretations.

108. (B) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
The challenge and response theory was propounded by the influential twentieth-century historian Arnold Joseph Toynbee in his multi-volume work, A Study of History. He argued that the rise and development of civilizations are the results of societies successfully adapting to specific physical or social challenges. This process is led by a creative minority whose innovative solutions propel the civilization forward. Toynbee's framework emphasizes human agency and the dynamic relationship between a civilization and its environment as the primary drivers of historical change and growth.

109. (C) The systematic presentation of original research that makes a specific argument.
Thesis writing is a high-level academic activity that involves the systematic presentation of original research on a defined historical topic. A thesis must go beyond simple description to make a specific, evidence-based argument or contribution to the field. This process requires a clear methodology, the critical analysis of both primary and secondary sources, and rigorous citation. It represents the scholar's ability to conduct independent investigation and synthesize complex information into a structured, logical, and persuasive scholarly work that advances historical knowledge.

110. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Historiographical schools are defined by their unique core ideas. Post-modernism views historical narratives as subjective texts rather than objective truths. Marxism focuses on history as a process driven by class conflict and economic factors. The Rankean school emphasizes the objective analysis of primary sources to show history exactly as it was. Finally, Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory compares cultures to living organisms that follow a fixed life span. These diverse frameworks provide different lenses through which historians can interpret and understand the human past.

111. (B) The deliberate manipulation or fabrication of evidence.
Intellectual dishonesty in history is a broad term that encompasses any intentional effort to mislead or misrepresent the truth. This includes the serious offenses of fabricating primary sources, manipulating data to fit a specific thesis, or consciously ignoring evidence that contradicts one's own argument. While plagiarism is a well-known form of intellectual dishonesty, these other actions are equally damaging because they violate the foundational scholarly commitment to seeking and presenting an accurate account of the past based on a faithful evaluation of evidence.

112. (B) understanding the evolution and functioning of human societies.
Studying history as a social science emphasizes its systematic approach to investigating the development and organization of human communities. This perspective focuses on analyzing social structures, cultural institutions, economic systems, and human relationships over time. By using evidence-based methodology and critical inquiry, history as a social science aims to explain how and why societies change. This approach provides a deeper understanding of the complex social dynamics that shape the human experience, moving beyond simple storytelling to offer structured insights into social evolution.

113. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
History is a dynamic discipline that is constantly being revised and rewritten. This ongoing process occurs because new primary sources are frequently discovered, providing fresh evidence

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investigation and the creation of new historical knowledge.

154. (C) The attainability of complete objectivity and scientific certainty.
The negative school of historical writing challenged the optimistic claims of the positive school regarding objectivity. Adherents of the negative school argued that because historians are influenced by their own perspectives and the evidence is often incomplete or biased, reaching absolute scientific certainty is impossible. This debate highlighted the interpretive nature of history, suggesting that every account is to some degree a product of its author's context. This skeptical perspective helped shape modern methodology by emphasizing the need for critical awareness of subjectivity in research.

155. (D) I, II, III and IV
Historical research relies on several core principles that ensure accuracy and integrity. A hypothesis provides a tentative guide for investigation, while primary sources offer firsthand evidence from the period under study. Secondary sources perform the necessary task of analyzing and interpreting these primary materials. Furthermore, avoiding plagiarism is a fundamental ethical requirement, ensuring that all sources and ideas are properly acknowledged. Together, these elements form the methodological and ethical framework that allows for the systematic and credible study of the human past.

156. (B) Leopold von Ranke
The phrase "wie es eigentlich gewesen," meaning "how it actually was," is the most famous motto of the nineteenth-century historian Leopold von Ranke. It encapsulates his commitment to an objective and empirical approach to history. Ranke believed that the primary task of a historian is to portray the past accurately based on the critical analysis of primary archival sources, rather than using it to serve moral or political purposes. This motto became a guiding principle for the professionalization of history as an independent academic discipline.

157. (C) An exclusive focus on the reigns of emperors and kings.
Modern Indian historiography has moved away from an exclusive focus on dynastic history and elite rulers. Instead, recent trends prioritize a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the past. This includes subaltern studies, which examines history from the perspective of marginalized groups, as well as the specialized fields of environmental and gender history. These approaches analyze social, economic, and ecological factors, moving beyond traditional political narratives to provide a comprehensive and multifaceted view of the lives of common people and their environments.

158. (C) Synthesis
Synthesis is the stage of the historical method where verified facts from diverse sources are woven into a structured and coherent narrative. After sources have been located through heuristics and critically evaluated for authenticity and credibility, the historian must organize the information to explain the connections between events. This process involves interpretation and the creation of a logical story that makes the past understandable. Synthesis is the final creative and analytical step that transforms fragmented evidence into a complete historical work.

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159. (B) becomes superficial and unmanageable.
Selecting a research topic that is too broad is a common problem that can lead to superficial analysis. When a topic covers a vast period or too many themes, the researcher is often overwhelmed by information and cannot conduct a deep or critical examination of the sources. Such a project becomes unmanageable within time and space limits, resulting in a narrative that lacks detail and original insight. A well-defined, narrow topic allows for a more rigorous and scholarly investigation that contributes meaningful knowledge to the field.

160. (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Historiography has evolved through several distinct phases, each defined by a specific characteristic. Greek historiography introduced rational inquiry into human affairs, while Roman historiography was often marked by moral and patriotic purposes. In the medieval period, church historiography focused on divine providence and the unfolding of a spiritual plan. Finally, the Renaissance brought a shift toward humanism and secular causes, emphasizing human agency. These developments reflect the changing ways

evidence about the past from the period under study. Secondary sources offer interpretations and analyses of those events. A crucial task for the historian is to use original primary evidence to evaluate the claims and theories presented in secondary works. This critical interaction between different types of sources ensures that historical research remains grounded in verified facts while engaging with and contributing to broader scholarly interpretations and debates.

201. (A) Choose a question that is specific, significant, and can be researched with available sources.
Choosing an appropriate research topic is a critical first step that determines the success of a historical project. A good topic should be specific enough to be manageable within time limits and significant enough to contribute to the field. Most importantly, the historian must ensure that a sufficient body of primary and secondary sources is accessible to investigate the question. By balancing intellectual significance with practical feasibility, the researcher creates a solid foundation for a rigorous, evidence-based study that can be completed with academic depth and precision.

202. (C) The Cyclical Theory
The cyclical theory of history posits that civilizations and cultures follow a natural and predictable life cycle of birth, growth, maturity, and decay. This perspective, famously associated with thinkers like Oswald Spengler, views the rise and fall of human societies as a repetitive process similar to the biological life cycle of organisms. It rejects the Enlightenment idea of continuous linear progress, suggesting instead that all cultures eventually perish after fulfilling their organic lifespan. This deterministic view emphasizes the repetitive patterns found throughout the history of various global civilizations.

203. (B) could achieve scientific objectivity.
The debate between the positive and negative schools in nineteenth-century historiography centered on the possibility of achieving absolute scientific objectivity. The positive school, influenced by figures like Ranke, believed that by using rigorous methodology and primary sources, historians could uncover certain and objective truth. The negative school was more skeptical, arguing that the historian's personal perspective and the nature of historical evidence make complete neutrality impossible. This intellectual conflict shaped modern historical methodology by highlighting the tension between the ideal of scientific certainty and the unavoidable reality of human interpretation.

204. (D) Heuristics
Heuristics is the specific phase of the historical method dedicated to the discovery and collection of source materials. This process involves a systematic search for primary and secondary evidence, such as archival documents, physical artifacts, and existing scholarly works. Effective heuristics provides the essential foundation for any research project. Without locating a sufficient and relevant body of data, the subsequent stages of criticism, interpretation, and synthesis cannot be successfully performed. Heuristics is therefore the initial, evidentiary step that enables the disciplined study of the past to begin.

205. (A) I and III only
History is fundamentally the study of the past, focusing on human actions and experiences over time. A key analytical tool in this study is causation, which identifies the reasons and consequences behind events. While historians strive for objectivity, it is rarely "easily achievable" due to personal and cultural influences. Furthermore, imagination plays a vital, disciplined role in helping historians empathize with the past and fill gaps in evidence. Therefore, understanding history requires a balance between rigorous evidence-based inquiry and the analytical tools used to explain and reconstruct human experiences.

206. (B) Strong moral, didactic, and patriotic tone.
Roman historiography is characterized by its strong moral, didactic, and patriotic tone. Ancient Roman historians, such as Livy and Tacitus, often wrote with the intent of celebrating national virtues, criticizing moral decay, and providing lessons for contemporary conduct. Their narratives were designed to inspire pride in the Roman state and provide a moral compass for its citizens. While they used records, their primary goal was frequently social and political rather than achieving the detached, scientific objectivity that defines modern historical research methods and academic priorities.

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rigor. Historians must have access to original documents or artifacts to test their hypotheses and build a credible narrative. Therefore, the choice of a research area is often a balance between the historian's intellectual interest and the practical existence of relevant and accessible primary source materials.

168. (B) Recent trends in Indian history, such as Subaltern Studies
Subaltern studies is a prominent recent trend in Indian historiography that focuses on examining the past from the perspective of non-elite and marginalized groups. This approach challenges traditional narratives that prioritized colonial administrators, political leaders, and the social elite. By focusing on the experiences of peasants, workers, and women, subaltern historians aim to provide a more inclusive and multifaceted view of history. This shift represents a broader commitment to understanding the agency and lived reality of those who were often ignored in older, top-down historical accounts.

169. (C) To determine the authenticity and genuineness of the source material.
External criticism is the methodological step used to verify the physical authenticity of a historical source. This process involves examining the material properties of a document, such as the paper, ink, and handwriting, and analyzing its provenance to ensure it is not a forgery. By establishing that a source is genuine and belongs to the claimed time period, the historian creates a solid foundation for research. This verification must precede the internal criticism stage, where the actual content and credibility of the document are analyzed.

170. (C) Metaphysics (branch of philosophy)
Auxiliary sciences are specialized disciplines that provide historians with technical tools for analyzing primary evidence. Palaeography, numismatics, and epigraphy all use empirical methods to study scripts, coins, and inscriptions respectively. In contrast, metaphysics is a branch of philosophy concerned with abstract concepts such as being and reality. While philosophical frameworks can influence how historians interpret the past, metaphysics does not function as a technical or scientific method for validating original historical records. Therefore, it is not categorized as an auxiliary science in the context of historical research.

171. (B) Identifying the multiple and complex factors that lead to historical events.
The causation debate in history focuses on identifying the complex web of reasons behind significant events. Historians move beyond simple chronology to analyze both immediate triggers and deeper long-term causes. This process involves examining how different factors, such as economic shifts, social tensions, and political actions, interact to bring about change. The study of causation is essential for historical explanation, as it provides the logical links that make the past understandable and moves history from a mere description of events to a deep analytical inquiry.

172. (B) Personal and cultural bias.
Historians must always be aware of the potential for personal and cultural bias to influence their work. A researcher's social background, upbringing, and geographical identity can inevitably shape how they select sources and interpret sensitive historical events, such as a civil war. This internal perspective can lead to a one-sided or subjective narrative. To maintain scholarly integrity, a historian must practice critical self-awareness and use rigorous methodology to manage these inherent biases, ensuring that their work remains as balanced, objective, and evidence-based as possible.

173. (A) asserts that material conditions, particularly economic ones, are the foundation of society and historical change.
The Marxist interpretation of history is described as materialistic because it identifies the economic base as the primary driver of social evolution. This theory posits that the mode of production and the resulting class relations form the fundamental structure of every society, which then determines its political and cultural institutions. According to this view, historical change occurs through tensions and conflicts within this material base. This perspective shifts the focus away from individual ideas or religious factors, prioritizing instead the physical and economic reality of human existence.

174. (C) Arnold Joseph Toynbee

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The theory of challenge and response is the foundational idea in the historiography of Arnold Joseph Toynbee. He argued that civilizations rise and fall based on their ability to successfully respond to specific environmental or social challenges. This process is driven by a creative minority within the society. If the response is successful, the civilization grows; if it fails, the civilization enters a period of decline. Toynbee's framework provides a dynamic explanation for the development of civilizations, emphasizing the role of human agency and adaptability.

175. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Imagination plays a crucial but disciplined role in history by helping scholars bridge gaps in incomplete records. Because the surviving evidence is often fragmented, historians must use "disciplined imagination" to reconstruct the thoughts, motivations, and daily experiences of people in the past. This process is not the invention of fictional data; rather, it is an empathetic reconstruction that remains consistent with all available facts. By using imagination responsibly, historians can create a more comprehensive and human narrative that captures the complexity of historical lived experiences.

176. (B) A focus on marginalized voices and non-elite histories.
A key characteristic of recent trends in Indian historiography is the shift toward a more inclusive study of the past. This includes an emphasis on marginalized voices and the experiences of non-elite social groups, such as peasants, workers, and women. By moving away from traditional narratives that focused almost exclusively on colonial power or political dynasties, modern historians provide a richer and more multifaceted view of society. This approach, often seen in subaltern studies, aims to recover the history of those whose agency was previously ignored or suppressed.

177. (C) Locating and gathering information from archives, libraries, and archaeological sites.
Data collection for a historian is the process of identifying and gathering evidence from various primary and secondary sources. This involves conducting extensive research in archives, libraries, and archaeological sites to find manuscripts, artifacts, and existing scholarship. This information provides the evidentiary base required to support a historical argument. Unlike experimental sciences, history relies on locating and interpreting surviving traces of the past. Effective data collection is a vital step in the research method, ensuring that the final work is grounded in verified facts and evidence.

178. (C) Weaving the verified facts and interpretations into a coherent written narrative.
In the historical method, synthesis and presentation represent the final creative and analytical steps. Synthesis involves integrating the verified facts and interpretations into a structured and logical whole. The historian must establish connections between diverse pieces of evidence to explain the causes and significance of events. Presentation is the act of writing this synthesized account into a clear and coherent narrative. Together, these processes transform fragmented data into a complete historical work that provides a meaningful and readable explanation of the past.

179. (A) A primary source for the study of the war.
A diary written by a soldier during World War I is a primary source because it is an original, firsthand account created by someone who directly experienced the event. Such documents provide authentic evidence of the soldier's personal thoughts, daily experiences, and the reality of the war during that specific period. Historians prioritize primary sources like diaries because they offer direct insights into the past, free from the later interpretations and analyses found in secondary sources. They are the essential building blocks for constructing accurate historical narratives.

180. (B) II, III and IV only
Plagiarism in academic writing is a broad ethical violation that goes beyond simple word-for-word copying. It also includes paraphrasing another person's unique ideas or research without providing a proper citation. Maintaining intellectual honesty is a fundamental scholarly requirement, and failing to acknowledge sources undermines the integrity of the work. However, using common knowledge, such as widely accepted historical dates, does not require a citation. Understanding these rules is essential

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for producing ethical research that respects intellectual property and follows established academic conventions.

181. (A) Biological organisms
The central theme of Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory is the analogy between human cultures and biological organisms. He proposed that every civilization follows a natural and inevitable life cycle of birth, youth, maturity, and decay. This perspective rejects the idea of continuous linear progress, suggesting instead that all cultures eventually perish after fulfilling their life cycle. Spengler's deterministic view highlights the repetitive patterns of civilizational growth and decline, viewing the rise and fall of human societies as an organic process inherent to the nature of culture itself.

182. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Historiography has seen significant shifts in perspective across different eras. Medieval church historiography was primarily providential, interpreting historical events as manifestations of divine will and a spiritual plan. However, the Renaissance period marked a movement toward humanism and secularism. Renaissance writers prioritized human agency, focusing on individual actions and rational causes rather than religious explanations. This transition from a God-centric to a human-centric focus, combined with a more critical approach to source materials, laid the foundation for the development of modern evidence-based historical methodology.

183. (B) Professionalization of history through seminars and source criticism.
The Berlin Revolution, led by Leopold von Ranke, was instrumental in professionalizing the study of history. Its most significant contribution was the introduction of a rigorous academic seminar system where students were trained in specialized research methods. This approach emphasized the critical analysis of primary archival sources and the importance of objective, empirical investigation. By replacing amateur storytelling with a disciplined and professional methodology, the Rankean school established the standards for archival research and source criticism that define historical scholarship as a respected academic discipline.

184. (B) Causation
An argument that links specific factors, like the "Protestant Ethic," to broader developments, such as the rise of capitalism, is an example of an analysis of causation. Causation in history involves identifying the complex web of reasons and contributing factors that lead to significant change. By explaining why a particular event or social shift occurred, historians move beyond simple description to provide a deeper understanding of historical progression. This analytical approach seeks to establish the logical connections and influences that shape the development of human societies and global trends.

185. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Major historical and philosophical works are uniquely associated with their respective authors and theories. Arnold Toynbee wrote A Study of History, which details his challenge and response framework. Oswald Spengler authored The Decline of the West, propounding the cyclical theory of civilizations. Karl Marx is the influential figure behind Das Kapital and scientific materialism. Finally, Herodotus wrote The Histories, marking the beginning of rational inquiry into the human past. These seminal works represent different interpretive frameworks and have profoundly shaped the development of global historical scholarship.

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186. (B) The inherent subjectivity and cultural perspective of the historian.
The primary challenge to achieving absolute objectivity in history is the unavoidable subjectivity of the historian. Every scholar is shaped by their own cultural background, personal beliefs, social environment, and political leanings. These factors inevitably influence how a researcher selects a topic, prioritizes certain sources, and interprets historical data. This inherent perspective means that no historical account can be completely value-free. Recognizing and managing this subjectivity through rigorous methodology is a central concern for historians who strive for transparency and credibility in their work.

187. (B) provide a tentative proposition to be tested against evidence.
In historical research, a hypothesis functions as a provisional framework that gives the study

direction. It is a tentative proposition or question that the historian aims to test through the systematic collection and analysis of primary and secondary evidence. Rather than being a final conclusion, the hypothesis provides focus during the heuristics and criticism phases, helping the researcher identify which facts are relevant. As the investigation progresses and new data is analyzed, the hypothesis can be refined, expanded, or rejected to reflect the historical truth uncovered.

188. (B) An analysis or interpretation of events written after they occurred, based on primary sources.
A secondary source is an academic or descriptive work created by someone who did not personally experience the historical events they are describing. These sources interpret, analyze, and synthesize primary evidence long after the events took place. Common examples include modern textbooks, scholarly articles, and biographies. Secondary sources are essential for providing historiographical context and interpreting fragmented primary data. They differ from primary sources, which are original records from the time period itself, by offering a later scholarly perspective on the past and its significance.

189. (C) Changing your thesis based on new evidence you have discovered.
Intellectual honesty is defined by a commitment to the truth, which includes the willingness to revise one's thesis when new evidence emerges. This flexibility is a hallmark of good scholarship, as it shows the researcher is prioritizing facts over a preconceived agenda. In contrast, actions like fabricating data, intentionally ignoring contradictory evidence, or plagiarizing another person's research are serious forms of intellectual dishonesty. Maintaining integrity through the honest evaluation of all sources is essential for producing credible and reliable history that faithfully reflects the past.

190. (A) I, III, and IV only
Major historical theories offer different explanations for the driving forces of history. Karl Marx emphasized class struggle as the engine of societal change. Arnold Toynbee proposed that civilizations rise and develop through a challenge and response pattern. Oswald Spengler viewed cultures as biological organisms that follow a predictable life cycle of birth, growth, and decay. These diverse perspectives provide structural, dynamic, and cyclical frameworks for interpreting the human past, moving beyond simple chronology to offer deep analytical insights into civilizational development and social evolution.

191. (B) Provide a more nuanced and complex understanding of a nation's past.
Regional history is significant because it explores local contexts that national narratives might oversimplify or ignore. By focusing on specific geographical areas, historians can reveal unique social structures, local events, and diverse cultural identities. This localized approach provides a more granular and complex understanding of how national events were experienced differently across various regions. Regional history thus enriches historiography by recognizing that a nation's past is a mosaic of many distinct experiences, leading to a more inclusive and accurate picture of historical development.

192. (B) Process of evaluating sources for authenticity and reliability.
In the historical method, criticism is the systematic evaluation of sources to ensure they are trustworthy. It is divided into two phases: external criticism, which investigates a source's physical authenticity to detect forgeries, and internal criticism, which assesses the credibility and meaning of the content. This rigorous process is essential for establishing a reliable foundation for any historical work. Without critical evaluation, a historian risks using inaccurate or fraudulent evidence, which would undermine the truth and academic integrity of the final historical narrative.

193. (C) Marxism
Marxism is the historical philosophy that posits economic structures as the foundation of society. According to this framework, the economic base—consisting of the mode of production and class relations—fundamentally determines the superstructure, which includes law, politics, religion, and culture. Marx argued that tensions within this base lead to class struggle and historical change. This materialist perspective focuses on the physical reality of human production as the primary force shaping historical development,

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downplaying the role of individual ideas or religious beliefs in determining societal shifts.

194. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
Post-modernism is characterized by its skepticism toward the idea of a single, objective, and attainable historical truth. Instead, it views history as a subjective narrative construction shaped by language and perspective. Therefore, the claim that post-modernism argues for an objective truth is incorrect. However, it is true that thinkers like Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida have profoundly influenced contemporary historiography. Their work has challenged traditional notions of power, knowledge, and authority, encouraging historians to deconstruct texts and acknowledge the multiple interpretations inherent in any historical account.

195. (B) 'References' usually lists only works cited, while a 'bibliography' can list all works consulted.
In academic writing, a distinction often exists between references and a bibliography. A reference list typically includes only the specific primary and secondary sources that were directly cited or quoted within the text of the work. A bibliography is more comprehensive, including all the works the author consulted during the research process, even if they were not explicitly mentioned in the body of the paper. By providing a fuller picture of the scholarly background, a bibliography demonstrates the researcher's thoroughness and serves as a broader resource for others.

196. (B) The models of classical Greek and Roman historians.
The Renaissance had a profound impact on history writing by reviving interest in classical models from ancient Greece and Rome. Humanist scholars sought to emulate the rational and human-centered approach of historians like Herodotus and Livy. This shift moved historiography away from the providential views of the medieval era, emphasizing human agency, secular causes, and individual character. The Renaissance also introduced a more critical and analytical focus on original texts, laying the methodological groundwork for modern historical scholarship by prioritizing empirical evidence and the study of human affairs.

197. (B) Causation
A historian who distinguishes between the "trigger" of an event and its deeper long-term factors is conducting an analysis of causation. Causation in history involves identifying the complex web of reasons that lead to significant events, such as a major war. By examining how diverse elements like militarism, alliances, and nationalism interact with immediate incidents, historians move beyond simple description. This analytical approach provides a logical explanation for change, helping to understand the underlying forces that shape historical developments and their consequences for human societies over time.

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198. (B) To narrate history as the unfolding of God's plan.
The main focus of church historiography in medieval Europe was to present the past as a providential process. History was interpreted as the unfolding of divine will and the progression of a sacred plan leading toward human salvation. This religious framework prioritized spiritual significance over secular causes, viewing historical events as manifestations of God's influence on the world. The primary role of the historian was to document the triumph of the Christian faith and the role of the church, providing moral and spiritual guidance within a universal Christian story.

199. (B) That it requires literary skill, imagination, and narrative ability to be presented effectively.
Viewing history as an art emphasizes that writing effectively about the past requires more than just gathering facts. It demands narrative skill, literary flair, and the creative ability to reconstruct past worlds for the reader. While grounded in evidence, history as an art involves using imagination and empathy to capture the human experience and motivations of historical actors. This perspective suggests that the presentation of historical truth is a creative act that makes the past meaningful, engaging, and alive, transforming fragmented data into a compelling literary narrative.

200. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The distinction between primary and secondary sources is a cornerstone of historical methodology. Primary sources provide the essential, firsthand

in the present. It offers insights into the origins of current issues and provides a repository of human experience that can guide future actions. History is vital for forming a sense of identity and for fostering a deeper understanding of the complex social forces that shape human life.

214. (B) the possibility of attaining objective truth in history.
The negative school of historical writing was a central part of a nineteenth-century philosophical debate concerning the nature of historical knowledge. Adherents of this school were skeptical of the claims made by the positive school, arguing that achieving absolute scientific objectivity in history is impossible. They emphasized that the historian's own perspective and the nature of historical evidence inevitably introduce a degree of subjectivity. This debate highlighted the tension between the ideal of an objective, value-free science and the reality of history as an interpretive and selective discipline of human inquiry.

215. (A) V, I, II, III, IV
Historical research follows a logical sequence to ensure it is systematic and evidence-based. It begins with formulating a hypothesis or research question to provide direction. This is followed by heuristics, which is the discovery and collection of relevant sources. Once located, sources undergo external criticism for authenticity and internal criticism for credibility. Finally, the historian performs synthesis to integrate the verified facts into a coherent narrative. This orderly progression ensures that the final work is focused, grounded in critically evaluated evidence, and provides a structured explanation of the past.

216. (C) The use of rigorous methodology, evidence, and critical analysis.
A historian who views history as a science emphasizes the discipline's reliance on rigorous methodology and empirical evidence. This perspective highlights the importance of systematic source criticism, the objective analysis of primary data, and the use of logical reasoning to establish historical facts. By applying a disciplined and professional approach, scientific historians aim to move beyond subjective storytelling to uncover verifiable knowledge about the past. This scientific outlook treats history as an empirical inquiry that produces reliable and accurate accounts grounded in the critical evaluation of original archival materials and physical artifacts.

217. (B) define a clear, manageable, and significant area for investigation.
Selecting a research topic is the most critical first step in historical inquiry because it defines the scope and feasibility of the project. A well-chosen topic must be specific enough to be manageable within time limits and significant enough to contribute meaningful insights to the field. Furthermore, the researcher must ensure that sufficient primary and secondary sources are available for the study. By clearly defining the boundaries of the research, the historian provides the necessary focus needed to conduct a rigorous, evidence-based investigation that results in a credible and well-structured historical work.

218. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Berlin Revolution, led by Leopold von Ranke, professionalized history by introducing rigorous methodological standards. Ranke championed the use of primary archival sources and objective analysis, famously aiming to show the past exactly as it was. A central part of this revolution was the introduction of the seminar system, which provided specialized training for historians. This system focused on the critical evaluation of evidence and technical research skills, moving history away from amateur storytelling toward a disciplined academic pursuit. These innovations established the foundation for modern professional historical scholarship as an evidence-based discipline.

219. (B) A prejudice or perspective that can influence the interpretation of evidence.
Bias in history refers to the personal beliefs, cultural values, or political perspectives that can influence a historian's interpretation of the past. These inherent leanings can affect how a researcher selects a topic, prioritizes specific sources, and constructs a narrative. Because every historian is shaped by their own context, absolute neutrality is difficult to achieve. Acknowledging the potential for bias is essential for maintaining scholarly integrity. By being transparent about their framework and using rigorous methodology,

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207. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Proper documentation is a fundamental requirement in historical writing. A bibliography serves as a comprehensive list of all the primary and secondary sources that the author consulted during the research process, providing a full picture of the study's intellectual foundation. Footnotes are used within the text to cite specific sources for data or quotations, ensuring transparency and accountability. Additionally, footnotes provide a space for supplementary comments or brief discussions that would interrupt the main narrative flow, allowing for deeper insight into the research and interpretations presented.

208. (C) Karl Marx
Scientific materialism, or historical materialism, is the core philosophy of history developed by Karl Marx. This theory argues that the economic organization of society, specifically the mode of production, is the primary driver of historical development. According to Marx, changes in these material conditions lead to class conflict, which in turn results in social and political transformation. This perspective focuses on the underlying economic structures as the essential force that shapes the progression of human history, downplaying individual agency in favor of a structural and materialist explanation of societal evolution.

209. (C) The idea of a single, objective "grand narrative" of history.
In the context of historiography, post-modernism primarily challenges the idea of a single, objective "grand narrative" of history. This perspective argues that overarching theories claiming to explain the entire human past are subjective constructions that overlook local complexities and diverse viewpoints. Post-modernist thinkers emphasize the narrative and linguistic nature of history, suggesting that all accounts are selective interpretations rather than reflections of an absolute truth. This approach encourages historians to focus on multiple perspectives and to acknowledge the inherent subjectivity in reconstructing and interpreting the human past.

210. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Historical thinkers are uniquely identified by their influential theories and core concepts. Arnold Toynbee developed the challenge and response framework to explain civilizational growth. Oswald Spengler proposed the cyclical theory, comparing cultures to biological organisms. Karl Marx is the primary figure associated with scientific materialism and economic drivers of history. Finally, Leopold von Ranke revolutionized the field by insisting that history should be written exactly as it was, based on the critical use of primary sources. These diverse frameworks represent different ways of analyzing and understanding the human past.

211. (C) Copying a paragraph from a website into your essay without quotation marks or citation.
Plagiarism occurs when someone uses another person's unique words, research, or ideas without providing proper credit. Copying text from any source, including a website, without using quotation marks or providing a citation is a direct violation of academic integrity. Scholarship requires transparency and the acknowledgment of all intellectual property. In contrast, summarizing ideas or using quotations while providing correct citations are ethical practices. Proper referencing ensures that original authors are credited and allows others to verify the evidence supporting a historical argument, maintaining the credibility of the research.

212. (B) Inscriptions
Epigraphy is the auxiliary science of history that specializes in the study of inscriptions found on hard surfaces such as stone, metal, or terracotta. For historians, these inscriptions are vital primary sources that provide direct evidence of laws, official decrees, religious beliefs, and political authority from past civilizations. By analyzing the language, style, and content of inscriptions, researchers can gain specific information that might not be available in other written records. Epigraphy thus provides a technical and evidentiary tool for understanding the formal and public aspects of ancient societies.

213. (B) provide context for understanding contemporary society and individual identity.
The scope and importance of history lie in its ability to provide the essential context needed to understand the modern world. By examining the development of societies, political institutions, and cultural identities over time, history helps individuals and nations understand their place

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in which different eras have understood the past and its primary driving forces.

161. (A) Art
Viewing history as an art emphasizes the importance of narrative skill, literary flair, and the creative reconstruction of the past. This perspective suggests that a good historian must go beyond data analysis to create a compelling story that makes historical events and characters come alive for the reader. While it remains grounded in evidence, the artistic view recognizes that effective historical writing requires imagination and empathy to capture the human element of the past, making history an engaging and meaningful form of literature as well as scholarship.

162. (B) the rise and fall of civilizations follows an inevitable, pre-set pattern.
Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory is deterministic because it posits that all civilizations follow an inevitable and unchangeable life cycle. Much like biological organisms, cultures are born, mature, and eventually decay, with their ultimate end being a natural and unavoidable outcome. This view suggests that human agency and choices cannot fundamentally alter this pre-set pattern of rise and fall. Spengler's perspective rejects the idea of linear progress or unpredictable change, emphasizing instead a rigid and repetitive cycle that governs the lifespan of every global civilization.

163. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Post-modernism has profoundly impacted the theory of history writing by challenging traditional concepts of truth and objectivity. Thinkers in this school argue that history is essentially a narrative text, shaped by the language, perspective, and power dynamics of the author. Because all historical accounts are selective interpretations, post-modernism questions the idea of a single, authoritative truth. This emphasis on the linguistic and subjective nature of historical narratives has forced historians to be more critical of their own roles and the constructive nature of the past.

164. (A) It is a form of theft and misrepresentation that undermines the scholarly pursuit of knowledge.
Plagiarism is a fundamental ethical failure because it involves the theft of intellectual property and the misrepresentation of work as original. By using another person's unique ideas or research without acknowledgement, a writer violates the basic principles of scholarly integrity. This practice undermines the collaborative nature of academic pursuit, which relies on the honest exchange of ideas and the clear identification of evidence. Maintaining intellectual honesty is essential for building a reliable body of historical knowledge that is based on transparency and mutual respect.

165. (D) I, II, III, IV and V
Historiography is defined by the significant contributions and theories of various influential thinkers. Herodotus is recognized as the father of history for his early inquiries. Leopold von Ranke professionalized the field with his emphasis on primary sources and objectivity. Karl Marx introduced the materialist interpretation through scientific materialism. Oswald Spengler proposed the cyclical theory of civilizational lifespans, and Arnold Toynbee developed the challenge and response framework. Together, these individuals and their ideas have shaped the methodologies and interpretive frameworks used to study human history.

166. (A) A chronicle simply lists events, while history seeks to interpret and explain them.
A fundamental distinction exists between a simple chronicle and a historical work. A chronicle is a straightforward, chronological list of events, often recorded without analysis of their causes or consequences. In contrast, history is an analytical and interpretive discipline that seeks to explain why events happened and to understand their broader significance. While history relies on the facts found in chronicles, it goes further by using evidence and synthesis to construct a meaningful narrative that provides deep insights into the human past.

167. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The availability of primary sources is a decisive factor in historical research, as it determines which topics can be realistically investigated. Because standard historical methods rely on evidence-based inquiry, a topic without surviving records cannot be analyzed with academic

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historians can manage these influences, ensuring their work remains as balanced and credible as possible.

220. (D) Arnold Joseph Toynbee
The challenge and response theory is the central concept in the historical philosophy of Arnold Joseph Toynbee. He proposed that the rise and development of civilizations are the result of societies successfully adapting to specific physical or social challenges. This dynamic process is driven by a creative minority whose innovative responses propel the civilization forward. Conversely, the failure to respond adequately to challenges leads to stagnation and decline. Toynbee's framework provides a comprehensive explanation for civilizational change, emphasizing the role of human agency, creativity, and adaptability in the progression of human history.

221. (B) sought rational, human-centered explanations for events.
Greek historiography, initiated by Herodotus and furthered by Thucydides, marked a major departure from earlier mythological accounts. These writers sought to provide rational and human-centered explanations for historical events, such as wars and political shifts, rather than relying on divine intervention. By introducing the principles of inquiry, the critical evaluation of information, and an analysis of human motives, they established history as a distinct and evidence-based discipline. This shift toward rational inquiry laid the essential foundation for Western historical writing, emphasizing the role of human action and reasoning in the past.

222. (B) A source that has been copied, translated, or transmitted through an intermediary.
A transit source is an piece of historical evidence that has been passed down through time via copies, translations, or other intermediaries rather than being the original document. Because these sources are not in their pristine state, they may contain errors or changes introduced during the process of transmission. Historians must apply particularly rigorous source criticism to transit sources to verify their accuracy and reliability. These materials are common when studying ancient and medieval periods where original manuscripts are lost, but their content survives through later versions and transmissions.

223. (B) Guiding proposition for the research.
In historical research, a hypothesis functions as a provisional framework that provides focus and direction. It is a tentative proposition or question that the historian aims to test against the evidence gathered during the investigation. Rather than being a final conclusion, the hypothesis helps the researcher identify relevant sources and prioritize specific questions of the data. As the research progresses and new information is analyzed, the hypothesis can be refined, expanded, or rejected, ensuring that the study remains a disciplined and evidence-based inquiry into the historical truth of the past.

224. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Modern Indian historiography is characterized by a significant expansion of its research scope. Recent trends have moved away from traditional focuses on political elites and colonial administrators toward a more inclusive study of the past. This includes an increased interest in subaltern studies, gender history, and environmental history. These approaches provide a more multifaceted and diverse understanding of society by incorporating the experiences of common people and analyzing the role of nature and gender. This shift represents a commitment to constructing a more comprehensive and representative narrative of Indian history.

225. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Intellectual honesty is a foundational principle of historical scholarship that ensures the credibility and integrity of the research. It requires a historian to faithfully represent evidence, acknowledge all sources of information, and avoid any deliberate distortion or fabrication of data. By maintaining this standard, researchers respect the intellectual contributions of others and uphold the scholarly commitment to seeking the truth about the past. Intellectual honesty ensures that historical narratives are verifiable and based on a transparent and ethical evaluation of the surviving records of the human experience.

226. (C) Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory

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251. (B) Its application of systematic methodology and critical evaluation
History aligns with scientific inquiry through its rigorous methodology and the pursuit of objectivity. This involves systematic data collection from various sources and critical evaluation of evidence. By applying these disciplined techniques, historians ensure that their findings are grounded in factual analysis rather than mere speculation, mirroring the evidentiary standards found in scientific disciplines.

252. (A) The employment of narrative and imagination in synthesis
Characterizing history as an art emphasizes the creative dimensions required to reconstruct the past. Beyond just facts, historians use narrative skill and imagination to synthesize complex information into meaningful stories. This process makes the past accessible and engaging, transforming dry data into a coherent and literary presentation that resonates with a wider audience.

253. (C) They are specialized fields that offer essential tools and evidence for historical interpretation
Auxiliary sciences like archaeology, epigraphy, and numismatics provide indispensable specialized tools for historical research. These disciplines offer physical evidence and analytical techniques that help historians interpret ancient sources. By integrating data from these fields, researchers can reconstruct past civilizations with greater accuracy, enriching the overall analytical power and evidentiary depth of historical inquiry.

254. (D) Complex and multifaceted intellectual character
The ongoing debate regarding history's status as a science, art, or social science stems from its complex intellectual character. History occupies a unique space that necessitates diverse methodologies, ranging from scientific rigor to creative narrative and social analysis. This multifaceted nature allows the discipline to engage with various interpretive frameworks, reflecting its vast scope and methodological versatility.

255. (C) The analysis of societal patterns and human group behaviour
Viewing history through the lens of social science shifts the focus toward understanding broader human behavior and societal structures. This perspective prioritizes the analysis of recurring patterns, group dynamics, and systemic developments over individual narratives. It utilizes social theories to explain how communities evolve, ensuring that historical study contributes to our knowledge of human social organization.

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256. (B) Heuristics Operation
The heuristics operation is the foundational stage of historical research, involving the systematic discovery and collection of sources. This critical process ensures that researchers identify all relevant evidence, including documents and artifacts, necessary for their study. By methodically gathering these materials, historians establish the empirical base required for subsequent analysis and interpretation of the historical period.

257. (D) To assess the authenticity and originality of a source document
External criticism serves as a vital safeguard in the historical method by evaluating the physical authenticity and origin of a source. This process involves scrutinizing the document's age, material, and provenance to detect potential forgeries or corruptions. By establishing that a source is genuine, historians can confidently proceed to analyze the information contained within the document.

258. (A) The credibility and reliability of the source's content
Internal criticism focuses on evaluating the credibility and reliability of the information found within an authenticated source. Historians examine the author's intent, potential biases, and proximity to the events described. This rigorous assessment determines how much weight should be given to the testimony, ensuring that the final historical account is based on trustworthy and accurate data.

259. (C) Acknowledging and mitigating bias through critical and transparent methods
Since eliminating bias entirely is often impossible, the most realistic approach involves acknowledging its presence and mitigating its

its creation. A transit source is one that has been transmitted through time via copies, translations, or other intermediaries. Because original sources provide direct and untainted evidence, they are highly prioritized. Transit sources require more rigorous criticism to identify potential errors or changes introduced during the transmission process over generations.

233. (B) emphasis on a rigorous, evidence-based methodology centered on primary sources.
Leopold von Ranke's primary contribution to historiography was the professionalization of the discipline through a rigorous, evidence-based methodology. He emphasized the critical analysis of primary archival sources and the importance of achieving objectivity, famously aiming to show the past exactly as it occurred. By introducing specialized research training and source criticism, Ranke established history as an independent and empirical academic pursuit. His work moved historiography away from subjective storytelling and moralizing, setting the professional standards for archival research that define modern historical scholarship as a disciplined search for verifiable truth.

234. (B) An alphabetical list of sources consulted for the work.
A bibliography is a comprehensive, alphabetical list found at the end of an academic work that includes all the primary and secondary sources the researcher consulted during their investigation. It provides a full picture of the intellectual foundation of the project, including works that may not have been directly quoted but influenced the author's general understanding. The bibliography demonstrates the scholar's thoroughness and serves as an essential resource for others to locate the evidence used. It is a vital component of intellectual honesty and the collaborative nature of scholarly research.

235. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The historical method consists of several logical phases that ensure a rigorous study of the past. Heuristics involves the initial discovery and collection of source materials. External criticism tests the physical authenticity of a source to detect forgeries. Internal criticism assesses the credibility and meaning of the information within the source. Finally, synthesis brings the verified facts together to create a coherent and structured narrative. Each of these steps is essential for producing high-quality historical scholarship that is grounded in critically evaluated evidence and provides a logical explanation of events.

236. (C) developments in the material and economic base of society.
Scientific materialism, or historical materialism, posits that history is primarily driven by changes in the material and economic base of society. According to this Marxist theory, the mode of production and the resulting class relations form the fundamental foundation that shapes all other social, political, and cultural institutions. Historical progression is seen as the result of tensions and conflicts within this economic structure. This perspective shifts the focus away from individual ideas or spiritual factors, prioritizing the physical reality of human production as the essential force that determines the evolution of human civilizations.

237. (B) Providential to secular and humanistic explanations.
The impact of the Renaissance on history writing was defined by a profound shift from religious to secular explanations. Moving away from the providential views of the medieval era, Renaissance humanists emphasized human agency and rational causes in their accounts of the past. This transition toward a more human-centric perspective prioritized individual actions, politics, and character over divine intervention. The Renaissance also introduced a more critical approach to source materials and a renewed interest in classical models, laying the essential methodological foundation for modern historical research by emphasizing empirical evidence and human-centered narratives.

238. (B) It questions the very possibility of objective historical truth.
Post-modernism poses a significant challenge to traditional history by questioning the possibility of achieving absolute objective truth. Post-modernist thinkers argue that because historians are inevitably shaped by their language, culture, and power dynamics, every historical account is a subjective narrative construction rather than a scientific reflection of the past. This perspective emphasizes that all history is an interpretation

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The Berlin Revolution established the archival, source-based academic monograph as the gold standard for historical research. This paradigm shift replaced grand philosophical speculation with specialized studies grounded in primary evidence. By emphasizing meticulous source criticism and professional standards, the movement transformed history into a rigorous academic discipline that influenced the way history is researched and taught globally for generations.

286. (D) The mode of production and class conflict
According to Marxist philosophy, the primary driver of historical change is the mode of production and the resulting conflict between social classes. History is viewed as a sequence of economic stages, such as feudalism and capitalism, determined by who owns the means of production. This materialist perspective argues that economic structures shape all other aspects of human society and development.

287. (C) Biological organisms
Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory compares human cultures to biological organisms that experience a natural life cycle. He argued that every high culture is born, grows to maturity, and then inevitably enters a period of decay and death. This organic view suggests that history does not follow a linear path of progress but instead repeats predictable patterns across different civilizations.

288. (B) linear; cyclical
A fundamental difference between these two theories is the shape of the historical narrative they propose. Marxism offers a linear and teleological model, seeing history as progressing toward a specific final goal. Conversely, Spengler proposes a cyclical model, where civilizations rise and fall in repeating patterns. These contrasting paradigms represent two major ways of interpreting the overall flow of human history.

289. (D) History is governed by discernible laws, driven by material economic conditions
In Marxist historiography, scientific materialism implies that history follows discernible laws rooted in material economic conditions. It rejects the idea of history as a series of random events or divine intervention. Instead, it posits that the development of human society is determined by the physical world and the ways in which people produce their means of subsistence.

290. (A) As the story of multiple, separate cultures with finite lifespans
Oswald Spengler rejected the idea of a single, continuous narrative of human progress. He viewed history as the story of multiple, distinct high cultures, each possessing its own unique "soul" and lifespan. These cultures develop independently of one another, following their own internal cycles of growth and decline, rather than contributing to a unified global movement toward a final destination.

291. (C) A successful and creative response to a significant challenge
Arnold Joseph Toynbee's theory posits that civilizations develop through a process of "Challenge and Response." Growth is triggered when a society successfully and creatively meets a significant environmental or social challenge. If the challenge is appropriate—neither too easy nor too overwhelming—it stimulates the creative energy of the culture, leading to the continuous development and expansion of the civilization.

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292. (A) That grand theories or "meta-narratives" of history are untenable
Post-modernism in history argues that universal "meta-narratives," such as those proposed by Marx or Toynbee, are impossible to sustain. Post-modernist thinkers believe that history cannot be captured in a single, objective story. Instead, they emphasize that historical knowledge is fragmented and that any attempt to create an all-encompassing theory is a construct of the historian's own cultural and linguistic context.

293. (D) As textual constructs shaped by power and language
From a post-modernist perspective, historical accounts are not direct windows into the past but are textual constructs. They are inherently shaped by the power structures and linguistic conventions of the time in which they were written. This view suggests that historical truth is subjective and influenced by the historian's own perspective rather than being a purely objective record of events.

evolution of complex societies throughout human history.

245. (B) Deliberately mistranslating a foreign language source to fit a preconceived argument.
Intellectual dishonesty in history writing involves any intentional act that misleads the reader or misrepresents the truth. A prime example is the deliberate mistranslation of a foreign language source to support a specific argument or preconceived thesis. This action violates the fundamental scholarly commitment to seeking and presenting an accurate account of the past based on a faithful evaluation of all evidence. Maintaining intellectual honesty is essential for producing credible history. Actions like proper citation or using imagination responsibly based on evidence demonstrate scholarly integrity and are necessary for the professional study of the past.

246. (B) The study of the history of historical writing and interpretation.
Historiography is the specialized field that examines how history has been written and interpreted over time. It focuses on the different schools of thought, methodologies, and perspectives employed by historians across various eras. By studying historiography, researchers can understand how the perception of the past has changed and how contemporary social and intellectual contexts have influenced historical narratives. It is essentially the "history of history," providing critical insights into the evolution of historical scholarship, its changing priorities, and the diverse ways in which human societies have understood their own past.

247. (B) Tentative argument that guides the investigation.
In historical research, a hypothesis functions as a provisional framework that provides focus and direction. It is a tentative argument or question that the historian aims to test through the systematic collection and analysis of primary and secondary evidence. Rather than being a final conclusion, the hypothesis helps the researcher identify relevant sources and prioritize specific analytical questions. As the investigation progresses and new data is analyzed, the hypothesis can be refined, expanded, or rejected, ensuring that the study remains a disciplined, evidence-based, and scholarly inquiry into the truth about the historical past.

248. (B) A letter written by Napoleon Bonaparte.
A primary source is an original document or artifact created during the specific time period under study by a participant or witness. A letter written by Napoleon Bonaparte is a direct, firsthand record that provides authentic evidence of his thoughts and actions during his lifetime. In contrast, textbooks, biographies, and documentaries are secondary sources because they provide later interpretations and analyses based on primary evidence. Historians prioritize primary sources like original letters and official documents because they offer direct insights into the past, serving as the essential building blocks for constructing accurate historical narratives.

249. (C) Leopold von Ranke
Leopold von Ranke is the central figure associated with the Berlin Revolution in history writing and the famous motto to write history "as it actually was." He professionalized the discipline by introducing rigorous seminar-based training and emphasizing the critical analysis of primary archival sources. Ranke championed an objective and empirical approach, seeking to portray the past accurately based on evidence rather than using it for moral or political ends. His work established the professional standards for archival research and source criticism that define modern historical scholarship as a disciplined and independent academic pursuit.

250. (B) The role of language, discourse, and the deconstruction of narratives.
Post-modernism's influence on history is characterized by a focus on the role of language, discourse, and the deconstruction of narratives. This perspective argues that historical accounts are subjective constructions shaped by the perspective and power dynamics of the author. By deconstructing texts, post-modernist thinkers aim to reveal how historical truth is multiple and contingent rather than absolute. This approach challenges the idea of a single authoritative narrative and encourages historians to acknowledge the inherent subjectivity and linguistic choices involved in reconstructing and interpreting the past, prioritizing multiple perspectives and local contexts.

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Oswald Spengler's cyclical theory is based on the idea that civilizations follow a natural life cycle similar to biological organisms. He argued that every culture passes through fixed stages of birth, growth, maturity, and inevitable decay. This deterministic perspective rejects the idea of continuous linear progress, suggesting instead that the decline of a civilization is a natural and unavoidable part of its organic lifespan. Spengler's theory emphasizes the repetitive patterns of civilizational development and highlights the inherent nature of culture as a temporary phenomenon that eventually fulfills its pre-ordained cycle and perishes.

227. (B) To systematically record information and its source for later retrieval and synthesis.
Note taking is a vital organizational skill in the thesis writing process. It allows a researcher to systematically record specific facts, quotations, and insights from diverse primary and secondary sources. Furthermore, careful note-taking ensures that all gathered information is linked to its original source, which is essential for accurate citation and avoiding plagiarism. By organizing large volumes of fragmented data, notes provide the structured foundation needed for the historian to later analyze evidence and synthesize a coherent and evidence-based historical narrative that is both logical and scholarly.

228. (B) Identifying the author's potential bias and purpose for writing.
Internal criticism is the phase of historical methodology where the content and credibility of a source are analyzed. After a document's physical authenticity has been verified through external criticism, the historian must evaluate the reliability of the information it contains. This involves identifying the author's potential biases, their intended audience, and the overall purpose for writing. By critically examining the motives and context behind the source, the historian can determine how much weight to give the evidence, ensuring the final historical account is built on a foundation of credible information.

229. (A) offer perspectives that are often missed in overarching national narratives.
Regional history is significant because it explores specific local contexts that broader national narratives might overlook. By focusing on smaller geographical scales, historians can reveal unique social structures, local events, and diverse cultural experiences. This approach provides a more nuanced and complex understanding of how national trends were experienced differently across various regions. Regional history enriches historiography by acknowledging the diversity within a nation's past, providing a more inclusive and accurate picture of development that reflects the varied and overlapping experiences of different local communities throughout history.

230. (C) I, III and IV only
Plagiarism and intellectual dishonesty are serious violations of academic integrity that undermine the credibility of scholarship. These offenses include using another person's words without quotation marks or citation, deliberately misquoting a source to fit an argument, and presenting someone else's work as one's own. These actions misrepresent the evidence and fail to respect intellectual property. Proper research requires a transparent acknowledgment of all sources and ideas. Summarizing an argument with a correct citation is an ethical practice that demonstrates intellectual honesty and follows the established conventions of historical scholarship.

231. (B) its methodology, purpose, and the nature of its truth claims.
The debate regarding history's classification as a science, art, or social science centers on its fundamental characteristics. This discussion examines the methodology used by historians, the ultimate purpose of the discipline, and the nature of the truth claims it produces. While some emphasize the rigorous and objective analysis of empirical evidence, others highlight the narrative skill and imagination needed to reconstruct the human past. The classification of history as a social science focuses on its systematic study of human societies. This ongoing debate reflects the multifaceted and interpretive nature of historical inquiry.

232. (B) Whether the source is in its first state or transmitted by copies.
In historical research, a fundamental distinction exists between original and transit sources based on their state of preservation. An original source is a primary document or artifact that remains in its first, unaltered condition from the time of

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impact. Historians use transparent, evidence-based procedures and critical methodology to minimize personal or political distortion. By being aware of their own perspectives, researchers can produce more objective accounts while maintaining the intellectual integrity of their historical findings.

260. (A) Aspiring to represent the past without personal distortion
Objectivity in history represents the aspiration to reconstruct the past as it truly occurred, independent of the researcher's personal beliefs or prejudices. This ideal requires a commitment to impartial analysis and the meticulous evaluation of evidence. While absolute objectivity is difficult to achieve, striving for it ensures that historical accounts remain grounded in factual truth rather than bias.

261. (D) To serve as a provisional argument that guides the investigation
A hypothesis serves as a vital organizing principle that provides focus and direction to historical research. Rather than being a final conclusion, it acts as a testable proposition or provisional explanation for historical phenomena. This initial argument guides the selection of evidence and transforms the research process from a simple collection of facts into a purposeful analytical inquiry.

262. (B) A topic being overly broad and excessively narrow
Selecting a research topic requires a careful balance between feasibility and significance. An overly broad topic can become unmanageable and superficial, while an excessively narrow one may lack sufficient sources to sustain a scholarly investigation. Finding the right scope ensures that the historian can conduct a deep, original, and manageable study that contributes meaningfully to existing historical knowledge.

263. (C) Selection of topic → Delineating research area → Hypothesis formulation
The initial phase of historical research follows a logical progression to ensure intellectual rigor. First, a researcher selects a viable topic. Second, the area of research is delineated by setting clear boundaries. Finally, a hypothesis is formulated to guide the investigation. This structured framework provides the necessary coherence for building a solid foundation for any scholarly historical work.

264. (D) Setting clear chronological, geographical, and thematic limits
Delineating the area of proposed research involves establishing specific boundaries to make the study focused and manageable. This process requires the historian to define the chronological time frame, the geographical scope, and the thematic limits of the investigation. Such clear definitions prevent the research from becoming unfocused and ensure that the analysis remains concentrated on a specific subject.

265. (A) Purposeful analysis
Adopting a hypothesis-driven approach lends a sense of purpose and analytical depth to historical research. Instead of merely accumulating unrelated facts, the researcher actively tests a specific argument or proposition. This method ensures that every piece of evidence is evaluated for its relevance to the central question, resulting in a more coherent, insightful, and logically structured historical account.

266. (B) A personal letter written by a soldier during a war
Primary sources provide direct, firsthand evidence from the historical period being studied. A personal letter written by a soldier during a war is a perfect example, as it captures immediate experiences and perspectives without later interpretation. These materials are essential for historians because they offer unmediated testimony that serves as the raw data for reconstructing and understanding past events.

267. (B) It is a work that interprets or analyzes primary sources after the event
Secondary sources are defined by their interpretative and analytical nature, usually produced by scholars after the events have occurred. These works synthesize primary source evidence to provide a broader context or argument. Examples include academic books and journal articles that offer historical perspectives. They are crucial for understanding how different historians have understood and debated various aspects of the past.

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and that multiple, competing versions of the truth exist. By deconstructing texts and challenging the authority of the historian, post-modernism highlights the inherent subjectivity and selective nature of how the human past is reconstructed.

239. (B) Formulating a preliminary hypothesis and conducting initial research.
After selecting a research topic, the most appropriate next step in writing a thesis or assignment is to formulate a preliminary hypothesis and conduct initial research. The hypothesis provides a tentative framework and direction for the study, helping to identify relevant primary and secondary sources. This early research allows the scholar to test the feasibility of their topic and refine their question based on the evidence available. By establishing this guiding proposition at the beginning, the researcher ensures that the subsequent stages of data collection and critical analysis are focused, systematic, and scholarly.

240. (D) I, II, III, IV and V
Historiography has evolved through several distinct stages, each contributing to how we understand the past. Greek historiography introduced rational inquiry, while Roman historians emphasized moral and patriotic purposes. In the medieval era, church historiography centered on divine providence. The Renaissance brought a shift toward humanism and secular causes, emphasizing human agency. Finally, post-modernism has challenged the idea of single grand narratives, highlighting the subjective nature of historical truth. Together, these developments reflect the changing methodologies and interpretive frameworks that define the professional and critical study of the human past across different eras.

241. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Objectivity is a fundamental ideal that historians strive for by using rigorous methodology and source criticism to minimize personal influence. However, achieving complete neutrality is difficult because every researcher is shaped by their own values, social background, and political beliefs. These inherent perspectives can inevitably introduce bias into the selection of topics and the interpretation of evidence. Acknowledging this reality is essential for scholarly integrity. By being transparent about their framework and using a disciplined approach to evidence, historians can manage their subjectivity and produce credible, evidence-based narratives of the past.

242. (C) Internal Criticism
Internal criticism is the phase of the historical method where a scholar analyzes the content of a source to understand the author's motives, biases, and intended meaning. After external criticism has verified the document's physical authenticity, internal criticism evaluates its credibility as a piece of evidence. This involves considering the author's perspective and the historical context in which the document was produced. By critically examining what the source actually says and why it was written, the historian can determine the reliability of the information, ensuring the final narrative is built on credible data.

243. (B) understanding the complex web of factors that contribute to historical change.
The core idea of causation in history involves identifying the complex web of reasons and factors that lead to significant events and societal change. Historians move beyond simple chronology to analyze how diverse elements, such as economic shifts, social tensions, and individual actions, interact to bring about historical transitions. This analytical approach seeks to explain "why" events happened by examining both immediate triggers and deeper long-term causes. By establishing these logical links, history becomes an interpretive discipline that provides a deep and meaningful understanding of the forces that shape human civilizations over time.

244. (C) Challenge and Response Theory
The historical philosophy of Arnold Joseph Toynbee is defined by his challenge and response theory. He proposed that civilizations rise and develop by successfully adapting to specific physical or social challenges. This process is driven by a creative minority whose innovative solutions propel the civilization forward. Failure to respond adequately to these challenges leads to stagnation and ultimate decline. Toynbee's framework provides a dynamic explanation for the development of global civilizations, emphasizing the role of human agency, creativity, and adaptability in historical change and the

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the groundwork for a more secular and analytical approach to recording history, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based investigation in human affairs.

277. (D) View of history as the progression of a divine plan
Church historiography is defined by its teleological and providential framework, where history is seen as the unfolding of a divine plan. Writers like Eusebius and Augustine viewed human events not as random occurrences but as stages moving toward a predetermined spiritual end. This perspective dominated European thought for centuries, placing the focus of history on the will of God.

278. (B) Revive interest in classical models and focus on human agency
The Renaissance significantly transformed history writing by secularizing the discipline and reviving classical Greek and Roman models. Renaissance humanists shifted the focus from divine providence back to human agency and political action. By emphasizing human motivations and stylistic elegance, they laid the foundation for modern historical consciousness, prioritizing the role of individuals and secular forces in shaping the past.

279. (C) It inherited and adapted the Greek model, often with a moralistic purpose
Roman historians like Livy and Tacitus inherited the rational and narrative traditions of the Greeks but adapted them to suit Roman needs. Their writing often served a moralistic purpose, focusing on the political and military virtues of the state. While maintaining the Greek emphasis on human action, Roman historiography was frequently used to provide lessons in citizenship and loyalty to Rome.

280. (D) Renaissance
The pivotal shift in focus from divine will to human action is primarily attributed to the Renaissance. During this period, thinkers moved away from the providential views of the Middle Ages. By centering human reason, political motivations, and classical secularism, Renaissance historians redefined the scope of history, making human beings the primary drivers of historical change rather than divine forces.

281. (A) Leopold von Ranke
Leopold von Ranke is the central figure of the Berlin Revolution in History Writing, a movement that professionalized the discipline in the nineteenth century. Ranke introduced a rigorous methodology based on the critical examination of primary sources, especially state archives. His influence established new standards for historical scholarship, emphasizing the need for historians to remain objective and impartial in their research.

282. (B) The critical examination of primary sources to achieve objectivity
The Positive school, championed by Leopold von Ranke, prioritized objectivity and the strict use of archival evidence. This approach insisted that historians should avoid moral judgments and philosophical speculation. Instead, they were tasked with uncovering facts through the meticulous criticism of primary sources. This methodology aimed to turn history into a scientific discipline grounded in empirical data rather than personal opinion.

283. (B) The aspiration to represent the past objectively and accurately
Von Ranke's famous dictum "wie es eigentlich gewesen" translates to showing the past "as it actually was." This phrase encapsulates the core ideal of nineteenth-century positivism: the pursuit of absolute objectivity and accuracy. It reflects the historian's duty to reconstruct events based strictly on evidence, without imposing contemporary prejudices or seeking to teach moral lessons through the narrative.

284. (A) Use history for didactic purposes to criticize the past
In contrast to the objective focus of the Positive school, Negative schools often used history for didactic and critical purposes. These writers, including some Enlightenment philosophers, analyzed the past to highlight previous errors and advocate for modern ideals like reason and progress. Their approach was more interpretive and ideological, using historical examples to influence contemporary thought rather than just recording facts.

285. (C) The archival, source-based academic monograph

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268. (A) The degree of mediation and potential alteration of the information
The distinction between original and transit sources focuses on the level of mediation involved in transmitting information. An original source provides direct, unmediated testimony, whereas a transit source has passed through intermediaries. This separation is vital for historians because each layer of mediation introduces the risk of content alteration, requiring careful evaluation of the source's reliability and accuracy.

269. (C) The temporal relationship of the creator to the event being described
The primary difference between these sources lies in the temporal relationship between the creator and the event. Primary sources are created by individuals who lived through or witnessed the period, providing immediate evidence. Secondary sources are created later by those who did not experience the events directly. This distinction is fundamental for evaluating the proximity and directness of historical evidence.

270. (D) They demand new skills for evaluating and interpreting evidence
Modern trends like oral histories and films expand the historian's evidence base but also introduce complex challenges. These non-traditional sources require specialized skills for proper evaluation and interpretation. Historians must account for the subjectivity of memory in oral accounts or the artistic choices in film, demanding more nuanced methodological approaches than those used for traditional written archival documents.

271. (C) Synthesis
Synthesis is the critical stage where a historian integrates various pieces of evidence into a coherent and persuasive argument. After collecting and criticizing sources, this process involves organizing the data to form a structured narrative. It represents the transition from raw information to a finished historical account, requiring both analytical skill and the ability to construct logical connections between facts.

272. (B) To allow other scholars to verify the research
Beyond acknowledging intellectual debts, footnotes and bibliographies are essential for maintaining transparency and scholarly accountability. They provide a roadmap that allows other researchers to locate, trace, and verify the evidence used in a historical work. This system of citation ensures that arguments are grounded in verifiable facts, thereby upholding the academic standards and credibility of the historical discipline.

273. (D) Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the unethical act of presenting someone else's work, ideas, or words as one's own without providing proper credit. In historical writing, where research is built upon the contributions of predecessors, such intellectual dishonesty is a grave violation of academic integrity. Proper citation is mandatory to distinguish the researcher's original analysis from the established work of other scholars.

274. (A) Maintain the discipline's credibility and enable scholarly verification
Intellectual honesty and systematic citation are paramount because they protect the credibility of history as a scholarly discipline. By providing accurate references, historians enable the verification of their findings and foster genuine dialogue within the academic community. This transparency ensures that historical knowledge is built on a foundation of trust and rigorous evidence, preventing the spread of misinformation or unverified claims.

275. (C) Hypothesis in History
While formulating a hypothesis is a central part of the early research methodology, it is not a component of the formal citation and presentation process. Presentation specifically involves synthesis, note-taking, and the inclusion of footnotes and a bibliography to attribute sources. A hypothesis guides the investigation, whereas citation tools like footnotes ensure that the final presentation meets academic ethical standards.

276. (A) A rational inquiry into human affairs, departing from myth
Greek historiography, led by figures like Herodotus and Thucydides, is distinguished by its transition toward rational inquiry. It moved away from explaining the past through divine intervention or mythology, focusing instead on human actions and motivations. This shift laid

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294. (B) Universal theory of civilizational development
Toynbee's "Challenge and Response Theory" is classified as a universal or macro-level theory of historical development. It seeks to identify global laws that explain how and why all civilizations emerge and grow. This type of ambitious theorizing represents an attempt to find common patterns across the vast sweep of human history, contrasting with more localized or fragmented modern approaches.

295. (C) patterns; fragmentation
The tension between Toynbee and post-modernism highlights a fundamental shift in historical thinking. Toynbee looks for overarching patterns and universal laws to explain human development. In contrast, post-modernism emphasizes fragmentation and the multiplicity of competing narratives. This conflict reflects the movement from nineteenth-century grand theories toward the more skeptical and diverse interpretive frameworks of the late twentieth century.

296. (D) It reveals unique local dynamics often missed in national histories
Regional history provides significant benefits by uncovering unique social, economic, and cultural dynamics that are often hidden in broader national narratives. By focusing on specific geographical areas, historians can explore local identities and developments that do not fit a monolithic national story. This approach creates a more nuanced and complex understanding of how different regions evolve over time.

297. (A) Themes like gender, caste, and environmental history
Modern Indian historiography has seen a shift toward exploring diverse themes such as gender, caste, and environmental history. Moving beyond the traditional focus on political elites and the nationalist movement, researchers are now investigating the experiences of marginalized groups and subaltern consciousness. This trend reflects a broader move toward a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of India's multifaceted past.

298. (B) Values the experiences of ordinary people and micro-histories
Regional history fosters a more democratic understanding of the past by centering the experiences of ordinary people and focusing on micro-histories. Rather than just chronicling the lives of rulers and elites, this approach values the stories of diverse communities. By incorporating a wider range of voices, history becomes more representative of the actual complexities and lived realities of human society.

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299. (B) Local records, oral traditions, and vernacular literature
Studying regional history encourages historians to use a diverse array of primary sources, including local administrative records, oral traditions, and vernacular literature. These materials offer insights into the specific cultural and social life of a region that might not be captured in official state documents. Utilizing these sources is essential for reconstructing a more authentic and detailed local history.

300. (A) Macro-level, state-centric national histories
The rise of regional history directly challenges macro-level, state-centric narratives that often present a simplified or monolithic view of national development. By highlighting regional variations and local specificities, historians show that the national experience is actually a complex tapestry of diverse identities. This challenge encourages a shift away from centralized historical accounts toward a more fragmented and realistic perspective.

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